

MARCH 2009 - SUMMARY

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - There were nine fatal shootings reported during March, five of which were apparent homicides, but the number of shooting incidents which resulted in serious injury was fewer than in the preceding month.
- Three of the homicides occurred in London, in Mottingham (a man has been charged with murder), Tottenham (the victim was 18-years-old, and two men have been arrested) and Holloway (the victim's son was also shot and seriously injured). The other victims died as a result of apparent domestic incidents in Yorkshire, a woman was shot at a house in Thorne (South Yorkshire) (her partner is facing charges) and a man died at a house in Eccleshill (West Yorkshire) (a second man who also shot was in a critical condition, and a third man is being sought by police).
- A 15-year-old boy was killed after being shot with an air rifle whilst target shooting with two other teenagers in his garden in Hayes (west London).
- Three men were found dead with shotgun wounds in circumstances which the police are not describing as suspicious. Their bodies were discovered in Didcot (Oxfordshire), near Gainfield (Oxfordshire) and between Caerphilly and Rhondda Cynon Taf (South Wales)
- In addition to the above incidents others which resulting in injuries occurred in:
 - Bedfordshire (1) - a man was shot whilst he was getting out of his car in Luton
 - Glasgow (1) - a man was shot a number of times in his car in Springburn after being chased by men in another car
 - Greater Manchester (1) - a man was shot in the buttocks in Glodwick
 - London (2) - a suspected gunshot victim was found in a street in Finsbury Park, and a man received shotgun wounds to both legs in a shooting in Brockley (a man has been arrested and bailed)
 - Merseyside (2) - two male victims were shot in the leg in separate attacks in Huyton and Stockbridge Village
 - Tyneside (1) - an 8-year-old boy was left critically ill after receiving shotgun wounds at a site in Gateshead
 - West Midlands (3) - a man was shot in Bushbury (another man has been charged with attempted murder and firearms offences), another victim was shot with what was believed to be a pistol outside his home in Small Heath and a third man needed hospital treatment after he was shot in Stoke (Coventry)
 - West Yorkshire (1) - a man was shot in the chest in Bradford (two men have been bailed in connection with the incident)
- A man was hit on the head with a pistol during an attempted robbery at a house in Botley (Oxfordshire).
- A 13-year-old boy was arrested after fellow schoolchildren were attacked with a stun gun in Leamington Spa (Warwickshire).
- There were, however, more gun victims who were injured by shots from air weapons and imitation guns (see below).
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - There were robberies and attempted robberies by men apparently armed with guns at:
 - Banks, Building Societies and Post Offices - in Birkdale (Lancashire), Melsonby (North Yorkshire), Helsby (Cheshire), Guide (Lancashire), Droylsden (Greater Manchester) (a bank and a building society were

- robbed by the same gang; a police officer fired a shot at the getaway vehicle after a shotgun was pointed at him), and Greatworth (Northamptonshire) (two men have been arrested)
- Betting Shops - in Aldershot (Hampshire), Hoole (Cheshire), Watford (Hertfordshire) and Netherfield (Nottingham)
 - Business Premises - in Harlow (Essex) (the robbers claimed to have a gun though no weapon was seen)
 - Petrol Stations - in Manton (Nottinghamshire), Market Harborough (Leicestershire) and Newport (Shropshire) (a man has been arrested)
 - Pubs - in Hucknall (Nottinghamshire) and North Shields (Tyneside)
 - Shops - in Maidenhead (Berkshire), York (three men are in custody after an armed robbery at a jewellers), Wolverhampton (two attacks on the same shop occurred within a week), Bromley (south London), Poole (Dorset), Widnes (Cheshire) (two separate robberies), Maghull (Merseyside), Coleshill (Warwickshire), Radford (Nottingham) (two men were arrested), Southend-on-Sea (Essex) and Old Colwyn (North Wales) (a customer was shot in the neck with a BB gun; three men have been arrested and charged)
- Some of the robberies in Cheshire were apparently carried out by a man who had escaped from court in December 2008: he has since been caught and charged with 14 new offences.
 - Security men were robbed of a large amount of cash by armed men in Uddingston (Lanarkshire).
 - There were attacks on houses by armed men in Botley (Oxfordshire) (a man was hit on the head with a pistol and his partner stabbed during he attempted robbery) and Robroyston (Glasgow). A couple were robbed at gunpoint whilst walking through a car park on Haverstock Hill (north London).
 - A taxi driver was robbed at gunpoint in Bolton (Greater Manchester).
 - A truck driver was stunned with a stun gun and dumped as his truck and load were stolen from outside an industrial estate in Saltley (Birmingham). Another lorry driver was hijacked at Fulwood (Preston) and forced to drive to Walsall and Gloucestershire; the robbers were also armed with a stun gun.
- **Other Incidents** - Shots were fired in a number of other incidents:
 - A family were trapped inside their home in Birkdale (Lancashire) when a gunman opened fire
 - Shots were fired at a house in Huyton (Merseyside)
 - A masked man fired several shots into a taxi office in Buttershaw (West Yorkshire)
 - A shotgun was fired through the window of a pub in Anstey (Leicestershire)
 - Four teenagers and a man were arrested after a shotgun was fired at a party in Oxfordshire where a teenage girl was sexually assaulted
 - A car thief threatened to shoot a police officer after a stolen car was stopped in Greater Manchester: the gunman escaped towards Ardwick railway station.
 - A man who threatened another man in a pub in Christchurch (Dorset) was later arrested. A man was charged with a number of offences, including four contraventions of the Firearms Act, following an apparent armed abduction in Grangemouth (Stirlingshire).
 - Police recovered a handgun after a man was seen brandishing a gun in the street in Burslem (Staffordshire). A man wielding a gun in Loughborough (Leicestershire) was arrested after being shot with a baton fired by the police.
 - A mother fought and disarmed a teenager brandishing two pistols after he threatened to shoot her son in Crawley (West Sussex).
 - A man was reported to the procurator fiscal after a firearms incident in Inverness.
 - A teenager was arrested when a school in Clifton (Bedfordshire) was evacuated after he had told a pupil that he would shoot him.

- A police firearms team was despatched to Wookey (Somerset) after a resident heard a series of shouts and screaming followed by what she believed to be a gunshot: no evidence of a shooting was found.
- A man charged with murder after a stabbing in Greenwich (south east London) has also been charged with firearms offences.
- A man who had shotgun cartridges in his pocket by mistake has described how security at Bristol Airport failed to detect them.
- **Guns Recoveries and Thefts** - Guns being found during a number of police operations, in some of which drugs were also recovered:
 - Stun guns were found during raids in Hounslow (west London), Hartlepool, Chesham (Buckinghamshire) and Pinehurst (Swindon)
 - Guns were found during raids in Greater Manchester (a man and a woman were arrested) and Blaina (South Wales) (a man was arrested for unlawful possession of a firearm)
 - Police found a loaded gun stuffed into a sock after they chased two men in Battersea (south London) (a man has been charged).
 - A gun was recovered by police from under a hut in Merridale (Wolverhampton)
 - Guns were discovered in cars in Littleborough (Greater Manchester) (a shotgun was found and man has been charged with possession of a prohibited firearm) and in Whitworth (Lancashire) (a prohibited Brocock airgun was found, one man has been charged and another recalled to prison). Police seized an air pistol and a large amount of cash when two cars were stopped in Torquay (Devon) (two men have been arrested).
- Ammunition was recovered by police from a house in Huddersfield (West Yorkshire). A bag of 9mm bullets was discovered by a member of the public in the centre of Manchester.
- Three shotguns, stolen during a burglary in Boughton Lees (Kent), were recovered from the River Stour in Chartham.
- A paintball gun, an imitation of a Second World War assault rifle, was stolen from a car in Hereford.
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns** - A 15-year-old was killed by a shot from an air rifle whilst target shooting in his back garden in Hayes (west London).
- A number of innocent victims were hit by pellets fired from airguns and BB guns, and as we pointed out in our recently-prepared list of [airgun incidents](#) these victims are often young or female:
 - A woman from Cobham (Surrey), who suffers from multiple sclerosis, has been terrorised by youths has been shot at with an air rifle.
 - Air rifle snipers hit two women in Longridge (Lancashire) (two teenagers were arrested)
 - A PCSO was shot in the back with an air rifle in Grantham (Lincolnshire) (a man has been charged with common assault and firing an air weapon beyond a premises)
 - A 13-year-old girl required surgery to remove an airgun pellet after being shot in Anfield (Liverpool)
 - A man was hit by an airgun pellet whilst walking in the street in Watford (Hertfordshire)
 - A woman was shot with an airgun near to a primary school in Sheerness (Kent) and required hospital treatment
 - An 8-year-old boy needed stitches after being shot in the head with an airgun whilst riding his mini-motorbike in a field in Crewe (Cheshire)
 - A teenager injured a 12-year-old pupil when he fired a ball-bearing gun in the grounds of a school in York
 - A teenager was shot with a BB gun in a fast food restaurant in Stafford

- An elderly man was shot in the face with a BB gun in Easingwold (North Yorkshire)
 - A supermarket customer was hit in the neck with a BB gun pellet during an attempted robbery in Old Colwyn (North Wales) (see above)
 - A man injured in the stomach in Fazakerley (Merseyside) was later reported to have been shot with a pellet gun
- A man was arrested after shots were fired from an air rifle in Barry (South Wales).
- A woman armed with two BB guns caused an alert at a secure mental health unit in Rainhill (Merseyside): she has been detained under the Mental Health Act. A man subsequently found to have been armed with a BB gun was hit with a rubber bullet by police in Falmouth (Cornwall) and then charged with possessing an imitation firearm.
- A teenager appeared in court following an incident which is alleged to have involved a gas-powered BB gun in Middleport (Staffordshire). A man was arrested and an air weapon recovered after someone allegedly threatened youths in Alcester (Warwickshire). Another man has denied possession of a firearm after a dispute over a taxi fare in Middlesbrough in which an air pistol was apparently involved.
- A man has been charged with having a firearm in his possession with intent to cause another man to believe that unlawful violence would be used against him and with stealing a gat gun from a farm in Stanley (Perthshire).
- Five people were held under the Terrorism Act after imitation guns, including an imitation Kalashnikov rifle, were found by police at an address in Plymouth: the find was linked to the forthcoming G20 summit.
- Air weapons caused damage to property:
 - Airgun pellets were fired at a house in Pevensey Bay (East Sussex)
 - Thousands of pounds worth of damage has been caused to historic windows at a church in Darwen (Lancashire)
 - Extensive damage has been done to a primary school's windows in an air rifle attack in Trannack (Cornwall)
 - There have been a series of airgun shootings in Trawden (Lancashire) where a pub and a home have recently been damaged
 - Homes in two areas of Halifax (West Yorkshire) were shot at with what is thought to have been an air rifle
 - Damage was caused to the door of a home in Skipton (North Yorkshire)
 - The window of a TV studio in Cardiff was shot at with an airgun.
- and to vehicles:
 - Passengers in Marchwood (Hampshire) had to duck when an airgun was fired at a bus.
 - Another bus was targeted by an air rifle sniper in South Brent (Devon) and damage was caused to one of the windows.
- A teenager was arrested after an incident with a replica gun on a bus travelling between Canterbury and Whitstable (Kent).
- Two girls have been expelled from a school in Alcester (Warwickshire) after BB guns were found there. A primary school pupil was suspended after taking a ball bearing gun to school in South Croydon (south London) and waving it at girls in the playground.
- An estate in Wokingham (Berkshire) has been plagued with anti-social behaviour, including shooting with BB guns.
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - There were more airgun attacks on cats, this month reported from Aberdeenshire, Berkshire, Bristol, Derbyshire, Hertfordshire and Staffordshire (two attacks in different towns) and Wiltshire. A cat in Lincolnshire was shot in the face with a shotgun.

- A dog was shot with an airgun in front of a 5-year-old boy and his mother in Corsham (Wiltshire).
 - There were also further attacks on swans in Godstone Green (Surrey) and Wednesfield (West Midlands) on a canal where attacks have taken place previously and airguns may have been used to kill two swans found dead in Silksworth (Sunderland).
 - A buzzard was shot in Aglionby (Cumbria), where in the last three months five other carcasses have been found on a golf course.
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- **Convictions** - A man who shot an intruder with a shotgun at his home in Chilham (Kent) was acquitted of murder.
- Three men have been sentenced for their involvement in an incident in which a man was shot in the leg in a garden in Allenton (Derbyshire): the sentences were six years, nine years and 95 days and 20 years.
- A man has admitted firing a shotgun in Worksop (Nottinghamshire) but denied attempted murder. Two men have admitted firing a shotgun at a pub in Broomhouse (Edinburgh). A man who fired a shotgun at a group of youths in Bridgend (South Wales), injuring a 16-year-old, pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm with intent and common assault and was jailed for 20 months.
- Three men who were involved in attacks on others in the southside of Glasgow, during which they pointed a gun or similar weapon, have been jailed for a total of 11-and-a-half years.
- A man from Hevingham (Norfolk) who pointed a loaded shotgun at his ex-wife while she lay in bed has been jailed for three years.
- A man involved in an armed robbery at a hotel in Brislington (Bristol) has been found guilty of robbery and having a handgun with intent to rob. An offender who was involved in a number of gunpoint robberies in the south of England after he escaped from a prison van in Barking (east London) has been jailed for 16 years: two other men involved in the escape, in which they brandished pistols, and a robbery were jailed for four years and ten years. Another man, who was part of a gang that raided shops in Newmarket and Barrow (Suffolk), has been jailed for eight years.
- An Army sergeant has pleaded guilty to brandishing an AK-47 assault rifle at a barracks in Minley (Hampshire).
- A man who was stopped in Walthamstow (north east London) in possession of a gun and then fled to Spain was extradited and has admitted a string of offences including possessing a prohibited firearm and possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and an attempted robbery 10 years ago: he was jailed for a total of 15 years. Another man from Walthamstow who was convicted for counterfeiting offences had been jailed for eight years for possession of a gun and ammunition.
- A number of people have been convicted after firearms were found:
 - A man from Wolverhampton and his teenage girlfriend have been jailed for nine years and four-and-a-half years after admitting possession of a shotgun and cocaine.
 - A man from New Eltham (south east London) has been jailed for seven years after a police raid revealed a stash of weapons at his home.
 - Another man has been jailed for 15 years after being found guilty of a string of firearms and drug offences including supplying weapons: police found drugs, a pistol and almost 200 bullets at his girlfriend's flat in Salford.
 - A man who kept an Uzi sub-machine gun under his bed at his home in Knotty Ash (Merseyside) has been jailed for 12 years for possession of the gun and ammunition and for drug offences.

- A teenager from Cardiff who was minding a gun for a gang admitted possession of the firearm and ammunition and was sentenced to five years in a young offenders' institution.
 - A gun enthusiast who hoarded military memorabilia pleaded guilty to illegal possession of ammunition, missiles and firearms without a certificate as well as possession of articles with a blade at his home in Chorley (Lancashire) and was given 24-week suspended prison sentence.
- There were convictions of a number of men over possession of stun guns:
 - A man from Rowley Regis (West Midlands) who admitted arming himself with a stun gun during a dispute with neighbours was given a 12 month suspended jail sentence and placed under supervision for two years.
 - A man who tried to bring a stun gun into the country from Thailand and was caught at Edinburgh Airport pleaded guilty to charges under the firearms act.
 - Another who attempted to bring stun guns and drugs into the country from Thailand through Heathrow Airport has been jailed for three and a half years.
 - Another man has admitted having a prohibited weapon after a stun gun and drugs were found at his house in Annan (Dumfriesshire).
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns (Court Cases)** - A teenager has pleaded guilty to robbery and possession of an imitation firearm after a man was robbed outside a restaurant in Harpenden (Hertfordshire). Another teenager received a four year sentence after an attempted robbery in Baillieston (Glasgow) during which he pointed a ball bearing pistol at the shopkeeper. A man who made and used a fake firearm as well as a knife during five robberies in Headington (Oxford) has been jailed for six-and-a-half years.
- A man who pointed an air rifle at people in the vicinity of his house in Grimsby (Lincolnshire) after an egg was thrown at him has been given a 12 month community order and ordered to complete 80 hours unpaid work. A man who threatened a neighbour in Staining (Lancashire) with an air pistol during a domestic dispute has received a 21 month jail sentence. Another man who repeatedly fired an air pistol to "frighten" a group of men who attacked him in Edinburgh has pleaded guilty to a breach of the peace and possessing a firearm in a public place.
- A newspaper reported that a man who fired an airgun at his neighbours in Lanchester (County Durham) during a catalogue of violence has been allowed to move back into his house after a six month ban: he had been given a suspended six month jail sentence.
- A man who aimed a ball bearing gun at police in Birkenhead (Merseyside) in the hope they would shoot him has been jailed for 20 months.
- A man admitted firing a paintball gun at a colleague at a paintball centre in Ratho (Edinburgh), causing his victim long term damage to his eye.
- A man has admitted uttering threats of violence, holding a gun to a woman's head and having a BB gun in his possession after a dispute at a house in Motherwell (Lanarkshire)
- A man has been fined £600 for terrifying a group of boys by following them with an air rifle in Ardrossan (Ayrshire).
- A man has admitted having an unloaded air pistol without reasonable excuse in Hawick (Scottish Borders). Another man who walked through an industrial estate in Ayr with an air rifle has had his sentence deferred for six months.

GUN INCIDENTS – MARCH 2009

ENGLAND

This is Somerset, 31 March 2009

A police firearms team was despatched to **Wookey**, Somerset, following reports of a shooting. A resident contact police after hearing a series of shouts and screaming, followed by what she believed to be a gunshot. So far there is no indication that any weapons were fired in the village.

The Star, 31 March 2009

A man whose father was the victim of a fatal shooting in **Pitsmoor**, Sheffield, has been charged with possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence on the day before his father's death in March 2007 (see [Incidents](#)).

Craven Herald & Pioneer, 31 March 2009

A double glazed door of a home in **Skipton**, North Yorkshire, has been damaged by an **airgun** pellet.

BBC, 31 March 2009

Two robbers armed with a handgun and a knife escaped with cash after threatening staff and customers at a shop in **Southend-on-Sea**, Essex.

BBC, 31 March 2009

A man from **Hevingham**, Norfolk, has admitted possessing a loaded **shotgun** with intent to cause fear. Robert Seldon pointed the gun at his ex-wife while she lay in bed. He has been jailed for three years.

Barking & Dagenham Recorder, 31 March 2009

A man who was sprung from a prison van in **Barking**, east London, in April 2008 (see [May 2008 Incidents](#)) and then went on to commit a series of robberies at gunpoint across the south of England has been jailed for 16 years. Tony Turner admitted conspiracy to rob and conspiracy to possess firearms and escaping from lawful custody with criminal intent. During his release from the van two men held pistols to a guard's head. Joe Turner and Dion Williams have been given sentences of four and ten years, respectively, for assisting his escape and, in Williams' case, taking in part in a robbery and possessing a firearm with criminal intent.

This is Staffordshire, 30 March 2009

An 8-year-old boy was shot in the head with an **air rifle** while riding his mini-motorbike in a field behind his father's house in **Crewe**, Cheshire. The boy was taken to hospital where he received stitches to his forehead. A pellet had lodged in his helmet, which, his father believes, saved his son's life.

Sussex Express, 30 March 2009

Matthew Wells, an army sergeant, has pleaded guilty to brandishing an AK-47 assault rifle at a barracks in **Minley**, Hampshire, in November 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He admitted possessing the firearm with intent to cause fear of violence towards a fellow soldier.

The Packet, 30 March 2009

A man arrested in the centre of **Falmouth**, Cornwall, was carrying an 'extremely realistic' **BB gun**. The man was hit in the arm with a rubber bullet fired by police before he dropped the gun. He has been charged with possessing an imitation firearm (*BBC*, 31 March 2009).

Hereford Times, 30 March 2009

A **paintball rifle**, an imitation of a Second World War assault rifle, was among items stolen from a car in **Hereford**.

Bucks Free Press, 30 March 2009

Two men have been arrested after police raids in **Chesham**, Buckinghamshire in which drugs were recovered at one address and a **stun gun** was found at another. One of the men was arrested on suspicion of possessing a section 5 firearm.

BBC, 30 March 2009

A number of **imitation firearms** have been seized in **Plymouth** during searches of several premises ahead of the G20 summit. An imitation Kalashnikov rifle was seized by police and three men and two women have been held under the Terrorism Act.

BBC, 30 March 2009

Armed police surrounded a house in **Radford**, Nottingham, after three men tried to rob a shop. They had threatened staff with a gun. Two men have been arrested on suspicion of burglary.

BBC, 30 March 2009

A shot was fired through a window of a pub in **Anstey**, Leicestershire. A **shotgun** cartridge was recovered from the pub. Eight days earlier a brick had been thrown through a window.

BBC, 30 March 2009

A man was killed and another was in a critical condition after a shooting in **Eccleshill**, Bradford. Police are hunting a third man. The shooting was thought to have been part of a domestic dispute.

BBC, 29 March 2009

A man is in a serious condition in hospital after being shot in the stomach in an incident in **Fazakerley**, Liverpool. The shooting followed an altercation between the victim and another man. He was shot with a **pellet gun** and has been discharged from hospital (*BBC*, 30 March 2009).

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 28 March 2009

A post office in **Greatworth**, Northamptonshire, was targeted by two men brandishing a handgun and a crow bar. They threatened the postmaster before making off with a small amount of cash from the till. Two men have been arrested on suspicion of robbery (*BBC*, 1 April 2009).

BBC, 28 March 2009

A police officer fired shots at the getaway car of a gang who robbed a building society and a bank in **Droylsden**, Greater Manchester. One of the gang had pointed a **shotgun** at the police officer. The car was later found abandoned. A large amount of cash had been stolen.

Kent Online, 27 March 2009

A woman was taken to hospital after being injured in an incident involving an **air rifle** in **Sheerness**, Kent. The shooting happened close to a primary school and the victim is believed to be an employee.

Evening Courier, 27 March 2009

Homes were shot at in **Boothtown** and **Claremount** in Halifax, West Yorkshire, with what is thought to have been an **air rifle**.

Buxton Advertiser, 27 March 2009

A man who attempted to rob a bookmakers in **Netherfield**, Nottinghamshire, and threatened a cashier with a handgun fled after a customer gave chase. The robber dropped his bag which was full of stolen cash.

BBC, 27 March 2009

Police have seized almost £30,000 of drugs and a **stun gun** during a search of a house in **Hartlepool**, Teesside. Two men and a woman were arrested.

BBC, 27 March 2009

Sheriff Oki of **Walthamstow**, east London, one of gang of men who have pleaded guilty to counterfeiting offences, had recently been sentenced to eight years in prison for possession of a gun and ammunition.

BBC, 27 March 2009

A shop assistant was threatened by two masked men with an unseen weapon that was possibly a gun during a robbery at an off licence in **Coleshill**, Warwickshire. The men stole cigarettes and money.

Worksop Guardian, 26 March 2009

A man has admitted firing a sawn-off double barrelled **shotgun** but denies the attempted murder of a man in **Worksop**, Nottinghamshire. He admits having a firearm with intent to cause two men, one a police officer, to think that unlawful violence would be used against them. The trial continues.

West Yorkshire Guardian, 26 March 2009

Police recovered a significant amount of Class A drugs and ammunition from a house in **Fartown**, Huddersfield. A man has been arrested.

Watford Observer, 26 March 2009

A man has been shot at with an **air rifle** as walked along a street in the centre of **Watford**, Hertfordshire. He was targeted by a man in a neighbouring flat, and then verbally abused and threatened as he ran away.

Maghull & Aintree Star, 26 March 2009

Two men armed with a knife and a **shotgun** burst into an off licence in **Maghull**, Merseyside, and stole cash after threatening a member of staff. It is believed £400 was taken from the till.

Halesowen News, 26 March 2009

Mark Ashcroft armed himself with a **stun gun** during a dispute with neighbours in **Rowley Regis**, West Midlands. He maintained the stun gun was not being carried to cause injury but simply there to threaten. He admitted possessing a prohibited weapon with intent to cause fear of violence and was given a 12 month jail sentence suspended for two years. He was further placed under supervision for two years and ordered to pay £2300 towards the prosecution costs.

BBC, 26 March 2009

A man was in a stable condition in hospital after being shot in **Stoke**, Coventry. His injuries are not thought to be life threatening. Four people, three men and a 15-year-old boy, were arrested and released on bail (*BBC*, 27 March 2009).

BBC, 26 March 2009

Staff at a bookmakers in **Watford**, Hertfordshire, were threatened by two men with a handgun. The robbers escaped with money.

BBC, 26 March 2009

A 13-year-old girl is recovering after being shot in the neck with an **airgun** pellet. The attack occurred as she was talking to friends in **Anfield**, Liverpool. She had surgery to remove the pellet from her neck.

BBC, 26 March 2009

A man was hit on the head with a pistol and his partner slashed with a pistol by three men who forced their way into the couple's house in **Botley**, Oxfordshire. The men demanded cash before leaving empty handed.

This is Wiltshire, 25 March 2009

A **stun gun** was found at a home in **Pinehurst**, Swindon, when it was raided by two police officers. The gun was purchased from an internet site and is thought to have been sent from the US. A man was arrested.

The Star, 25 March 2009

A woman is fighting for her life with gunshot wounds while her partner has appeared in court charged with her attempted murder. She was allegedly shot at their bungalow in **Thorne**, South Yorkshire. The victim died in hospital six days after the incident (*The Star*, 27 March 2009).

Herald Series, 25 March 2009

A man was found dead with a **shotgun** wound to his head in woodland around a mile from his home in **Gainfield**, Oxfordshire. He was known as a local landowner. Police are treating the death as unexplained but it is not believed to be suspicious.

BBC, 25 March 2009

Seven people have been arrested and a handgun found in a series of drugs raids in **Greater Manchester**. A man and a woman were arrested on suspicions of possession of a firearm.

BBC, 25 March 2009

A man has been shot in the leg in **Stockbridge Village**, Merseyside. He was taken to hospital where he was treated for his injuries. His condition was not life threatening.

This is Plymouth, 24 March 2009

A man from **Plymouth** has been accused of a number of offences including false imprisonment, possession of firearms and dealing drugs. The firearms were a prohibited **stun gun**, a double-barrelled over-and-under **shotgun** without a certificate and a prohibited short-barrelled handgun. He has been charged with possession of a handgun with intent to cause fear to a woman, possessing a firearm while prohibited having been jailed for 5 years and possessing 9mm rounds without a firearms certificate. He will face trial in September.

St Helens Star, 24 March 2009

A woman sparked a major police alert when she made threats to staff at a secure mental health unit in **Rainhill**, Merseyside, while armed with two guns. The woman, who was a former patient, was carrying **ball bearing guns**. She has been detained under the Mental Health Act.

Hartlepool Mail, 24 March 2009

A £5000 reward has been offered to catch a gang responsible for raids on three post offices in County Durham. The gang was armed with a **shotgun** during robberies which took place in **Wingate** and **Trimdon Station**, during December 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) and **Elwick Village** in January 2009 (see [Incidents](#)).

Herald Express, 24 March 2009

A sniper with an **air rifle** took a pot shot at a bus while it was being driven through **South Brent**, Devon, damaging one of the windows. No one was hurt but £150 damage was caused.

Burnley Express, 24 March 2009

Three men have failed in their appeal against the refusal of the Chief Constable of Lancashire to renew or grant them **shotgun** certificates. Jack Clarkson, Derek Kokocinski and Peter Smith had been cleared of charges in relation to an allegedly prohibited firearm after a boy was hurt when a home-made booby trap exploded in his hand in **Burnley**, Lancashire, in April 2006 (see [Incidents](#)) but the Chief Constable subsequently banned them from having firearms.

BBC, 24 March 2009

A man who has been charged with murder after a man was stabbed to death in **Greenwich**, south east London, will also face firearms charges.

BBC, 24 March 2009

A man who threatened a cashier with a small handgun at the post office in **Guide**, Lancashire, made his getaway on a bicycle. No money was handed over.

Runcorn & Widnes World, 23 March 2009

An armed robber held shop assistants at gunpoint in two incidents in **Widnes**, Cheshire. The robberies took place at a shop and a betting shop, and police believe they are connected. The man was armed with a handgun and during the first robbery was with an accomplice who stayed at the door. Two other men were involved in the second attack.

Lancashire Evening Post, 23 March 2009

A man who kept a vast arsenal of military memorabilia has escaped a jail sentence after pleading guilty to stockpiling 614 bullets, 1169 cartridges and an empty grenade canister at his home in **Chorley**, Lancashire. Former gun club member James Waddington pleaded guilty to illegal possession of ammunition, missiles and firearms without a certificate as well as possession of articles with a blade. He claimed to have made a genuine mistake and had always "conformed with the law. I'm a law-abiding citizen". He had received a caution in 2007 after an illegal pistol component was intercepted in the post. He was given a 24-week suspended prison sentence with supervision from the probation service.

Islington Gazette, 23 March 2009

A father was shot dead and his son critically injured in a drive-by shooting in **Holloway**, north London. They were shot by men on a motorcycle who pulled up outside a shop where one of the victims worked.

Evening Gazette, 23 March 2009

A man has denied a firearm offence after he was arrested by armed police on a street in **Middlesbrough**. He pleaded not guilty to possession of a firearm, an **air pistol**, with intent to cause fear of violence. The incident apparently involved a dispute over a taxi fare.

BBC, 22 March 2009

A man was in hospital with **shotgun** injuries to both legs after an incident in a street in **Brockley**, south London. A 20-year-old man has been arrested and bailed by police.

Sky News, 21 March 2009

A teenage boy has been shot dead with an **air rifle** in an incident at an address in **Hayes**, west London. It appeared that the weapon went off "by mistake" during target practice. No arrests have been made. The boy was aged 15 and was playing with his older brother and his brother's friend at the family home (*Daily Mail*, 22 March 2009).

This is Croydon Today, 20 March 2009

A primary school pupil has been suspended after bringing a **ball bearing gun** to school and causing panic by waving it at girls in the playground. The incident occurred at a school in **South Croydon**, south London.

Rochdale Observer, 20 March 2009

A Brocock ME38 **airgun**, a type of weapon which has been prohibited since 2004 and can be converted to fire live bullets, was discovered by police after they searched a stolen car in **Whitworth**, Lancashire. The officers also found an amount of cannabis. One man has been charged with handling stolen goods, possession of a prohibited weapon and possession of cannabis. A second man, who has been wanted for prison recall, has been returned to jail.

BBC, 20 March 2009

A man from Belfast has been jailed for three and a half years for trying to smuggle **stun guns** and tranquilisers into the United Kingdom. Kieran Breslin was arrested at **Heathrow Airport** in November 2007 after arriving from Bangkok.

BBC, 20 March 2009

A man was in hospital after being shot in the chest in **Bradford**. Police said the shooting was an isolated incident. The victim has been released from hospital and two men have been bailed in connection with the incident (*Telegraph & Argus*, 26 March 2009).

BBC, 20 March 2009

Police have arrested a man in connection with two separate fatal shootings south London, in **Bermondsey** in October 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) and **East Dulwich** in February 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). The man was arrested in **Peckham** by detectives from Operation Trident.

BBC, 20 March 2009

A man has been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm after a group of youths was allegedly threatened in **Alcester**, Warwickshire. An **air weapon** was recovered. The suspect has been released on bail.

BBC, 20 March 2009

An elderly man was shot in the face with a **BB gun** by a group of primary school age children in **Easingwold**, North Yorkshire. The pellet narrowly missed the victim's eye. The children laughed after the attack. The manager of a local newsagents which was selling BB guns says she will stop doing so.

Wokingham Times, 19 March 2009

An estate in **Wokingham**, Berkshire, has been plagued with shooting with **BB guns**, drug abuse, vandalism and graffiti. The local authority has outlined plans for walkabouts and inspections of homes at the estate.

The Gazette (Blackpool), 19 March 2009

A man who threatened another man with a **.22 air pistol** during a domestic dispute in **Staining**, Lancashire, in August 2008 has been jailed for 21 months. Brian Hindle had been drinking when he decided to visit his former partner's children who were staying at a neighbour's house. After having the door slammed in his face he returned with the gun and pointed it at the homeowner. He gave himself up after armed police surrounded his house. The judge said that "Only a custodial sentence can be justified. It was a real weapon - a .22 air pistol - capable of being lethal".

Birmingham Mail, 19 March 2009

A **BB gun** was discovered in the grounds of a school in **Alcester**, Warwickshire. The weapon, which was not fired, was allegedly used by two girls to threaten two female pupils after a fight. The two girls have been expelled.

Wirral Globe, 18 March 2009

A man who aimed a replica gun at police hoping they would shoot him has been jailed for 20 months. Glen Walton was upset at the death of his partner and aimed the **ball bearing gun** at an officer from his home in **Birkenhead**. Police found a replica assault rifle an ornamental rifle and some plastic ammunition at the house. Walton admitted possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

The Citizen (Burnley), 18 March 2009

There has been a series of **airgun** shootings in **Trawden**, Lancashire, since the beginning of the year. In the latest incidents windows at a pub and a home have been broken.

Southern Daily Echo, 17 March 2009

Passengers were forced to dive for cover when a bus they were travelling on in **Marchwood**, Hampshire, was targeted, probably with an **airgun**, in a drive-by shooting. The shot shattered a window.

Oxford Mail, 17 March 2009

Leigh Cooper used a **fake firearm** and a knife to threaten victims during a spate of five robberies in **Headington**, Oxford, during an 11-day period in December 2008 and January 2009. He threatened two members of staff with the handle of a kitchen grill taped to a tripod to make it look like a gun. The offences were fuelled by heroin addiction. He admitted five charges of robbery and one of possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He has been jailed for six-and-a-half years.

Louth Leader, 17 March 2009

A police officer has been honoured for his act of bravery following an incident in **Mablethorpe**, Lincolnshire, in December 2008 in which he restrained an aggressive man and discovered a handgun tucked in his trousers. The police had been called to the scene by a taxi driver who was being attacked but were not told that weapons were being used.

Liverpool Echo, 17 March 2009

Terence Gornall has been jailed for 12 years after pleading guilty to possessing drugs with intent to supply and possessing an Uzi sub-machine gun and ammunition. The gun was found under his mattress at his home in **Knotty Ash**, Merseyside, in November 2008.

Hounslow Chronicle, 17 March 2009

A man has been charged after police discovered a **stun gun**, along with drugs and cash at a flat in **Hounslow**, west London. The charges include possession of an illegal weapon.

BBC, 17 March 2009

A drug dealer has been told he will have to pay back more than £90,000 when he is released from prison. James Stubbs was jailed for six years in November 2008 after cocaine was found in his car and a 9mm handgun with the firing pin removed was found at his home in **Easington Lane**, Sunderland.

BBC, 17 March 2009

Two men armed with a handgun have robbed a post office in **Meltonby**, North Yorkshire. The men escaped with cash and stamps after threatening a member of staff.

BBC, 17 March 2009

A teenager has been arrested on suspicion of carrying a **replica gun** following on incident on a bus between **Canterbury** and **Whitstable** in Kent. The boy has been released on bail.

BBC, 17 March 2009

Two robbers who claimed to have a gun escaped with more than £10,000 from a business premises in **Harlow**, Essex. No weapon was actually seen during the robbery.

This is the West Country, 16 March 2009

Over 30 windows at a primary school in **Trannack**, Cornwall, have been smashed. Small holes were clearly visible in the windows and airgun pellets littered the floors. Police suspect an **air rifle** was used to cause the damage which is estimated to cost the school over £1500.

Telegraph & Argus, 16 March 2009

A masked man fired several shots into a taxi office in **Buttershaw**, West Yorkshire. The man and his driver made off by car. The motive is not known.

Shropshire Star, 16 March 2009

A robber armed with a handgun forced a young woman assistant to hand over cash during a raid at a petrol station in **Newport**, Shropshire. A man has been arrested (*BBC*, 18 March 2009).

St Albans & Harpenden Review, 16 March 2009

Adil Mumtaz, 18, has pleaded guilty to robbery and possession of an imitation firearm. He was the car driver during a robbery outside a restaurant in **Harpenden**, Hertfordshire, when two men, armed with a **replica handgun**, robbed a man of £4000.

Oxford Mail, 16 March 2009

A pensioner has been found dead in the back garden of his house in **Didcot**, Oxfordshire, with a **shotgun** wound to the head. The death is not being treated as suspicious.

Grimsby Telegraph, 16 March 2009

After being hit by an egg thrown from a passing car in August 2008, Frederick Bowyer went into his home in **Grimsby** and collected an **air rifle**. He believed the egg had been thrown by a group of youths who were standing close to his house and deliberately pointed the rifle at people in the vicinity. He admitted possessing a firearm to cause fear of unlawful violence and was given a 12-month community order and must complete 80 hours of unpaid work.

BBC, 16 March 2009

Two men who threatened staff with what police believe was a handgun robbed a garage kiosk in **Market Harborough**, Leicestershire. Cash was stolen from the till and a handbag was taken from a staff member.

BBC, 16 March 2009

Police seized an **air pistol** and a large amount of cash when two cars were stopped in **Torquay**, Devon. Two men have been arrested on suspicion of money laundering.

BBC, 16 March 2009

Ansell Douglas has been found guilty of carrying out an armed robbery at a hotel in **Brislington**, Bristol, when he and another man forced staff to hand over £20,000 in November 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He was found guilty of robbery and having a handgun with intent to rob and will be sentenced next month.

BBC, 15 March 2009

A bag full of 9mm bullets was discovered by a member of the public in a street in the centre of **Manchester**.

BBC, 15 March 2009

A man has been charged with the murder of a man who died of a gunshot wound to the head at his house in **East Ham**, east London, in October 2001. The man was traced to Florida and was extradited and arrested when he arrived back in the UK.

BBC, 15 March 2009

An 18-year-old man has been shot dead in **Tottenham**, north London. He was found with a single gunshot wound to the chest. Two men have been arrested in West Sussex in connection with the murder (**BBC**, 19 March 2009).

BBC, 14 March 2009

A man was shot in the leg in what police have said was a targeted attack in **Huyton**, Merseyside. He was being treated in hospital, but his condition is not thought to be life-threatening.

Staffordshire Newsletter, 13 March 2009

A teenager was shot by a **ball bearing gun** in a fast food restaurant in **Stafford**. He was shot in the head after six young men at a neighbouring table verbally abused his group.

Rochdale Online, 13 March 2009

A man has been charged with possession of a prohibited firearm after a **shotgun** was found in a car in **Littleborough**, Greater Manchester.

BBC, 13 March 2009

Two men, one of whom was armed with what was believed to be a small handgun, stole an undisclosed amount of cash from a pub in **North Shields**, Tyneside.

BBC, 13 March 2009

Three men have been sentenced for the part in an incident in which a man was shot in the leg in the front garden of a house in **Allenton**, Derbyshire, in May 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). Jahvan Gibbons, 20, was found guilty of three charges, possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life, wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and possession of a firearm when prohibited and was sentenced to 20 years. Carlos Grant was found guilty of possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life and assisting an offender and will not be considered for release until he has served at least nine years and 95 days, and Caleb Alexander was sentenced to six years after being found guilty of assisting an offender.

Telegraph, 12 March 2009

A clay pigeon shooter has described how security at **Bristol Airport** failed to detect live **shotgun** cartridges he was carrying by mistake in his coat. The teenager only discovered the cartridges on arrival in Inverness.

The Press, 12 March 2009

Aaron Barlow from **York**, who has just been jailed for mugging a 16-year-old, had previously bullied two other younger boys. In one incident, which occurred when he was aged 17, he had fired a **ball-bearing gun** in front of a 10-year-old boy.

Ham & High, 12 March 2009

A man and a woman were robbed at gunpoint whilst walking through a car park on **Haverstock Hill**, north London. The robber pulled out a black handled handgun and demanded the man hand over his wallet.

Daily Mail, 12 March 2009

A 13-year-old boy has been arrested after fellow schoolchildren in **Leamington Spa**, Warwickshire, were attacked with a **stun gun**. Witnesses say he chased other pupils and three children were rendered helpless to the ground. The weapon was apparently bought during a trip to Bulgaria with his father. The weapon is illegal in the UK.

Crawley Observer, 12 March 2009

A mother fought and disarmed a teenager brandishing two pistols after the boy threatened to shoot her son. The incident took place in **Broadfield**, Crawley in West Sussex.

Bury Times, 12 March 2009

Arms dealer Roger Rivers has been jailed for 15 years after he was found guilty of a string of firearm and drug offences. Police found drugs equipment needed to produce class A drugs on a large scale, drugs, a pistol and almost 200 bullets at his girlfriend's flat in **Salford**. A month earlier police had found two Baikal pistols, silencers and magazines loaded with ammunition in a bag which a "customer", Sharitta Warren, had collected from Rivers outside Manchester Piccadilly station.

BBC, 12 March 2009

A school in **Clifton**, Bedfordshire, was evacuated after a teenager told a pupil that he would shoot him. The teenager was arrested and has since been bailed.

BBC, 12 March 2009

A man was shot with a baton round by police as he walked through the centre of **Loughborough**, Leicestershire, wielding a gun. He was arrested and taken to hospital where he was treated for minor injuries. A gun was found at the scene and is being examined.

Oldham Advertiser, 11 March 2009

A man is recovering in hospital after he was shot in the buttocks in **Glodwick**, Greater Manchester. It is understood that the victim had just got out of a car when the gunman climbed out of another car and opened fire. The victim's injuries are not thought to be life threatening.

Kent News, 11 March 2009

A man has been acquitted of the murder of a man whom he shot as the victim tried to break into his home in **Chilham**, Kent, in November 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). The intruder died after being shot with a **shotgun**. The judge said that this was "an unusual case which shouldn't set a precedent for others".

Grantham Journal, 11 March 2009

A PCSO was shot in the back by an **air rifle** while on duty in the centre of **Grantham**, Lincolnshire. The victim was protected from injury by the 'stab vest' he was wearing. The shot was fired from a first floor window. A man has been arrested on suspicion of using a firearm with the intent to endanger life. He has been charged with common assault and firing an air weapon beyond a premises (*Grantham Journal*, 12 March 2009).

Bexley Times, 11 March 2009

Lawrence Kelsey from New Eltham, south east London, has been jailed for seven years after a police raid revealed a stash of weapons at his home including a loaded **shotgun**, **replica guns** and a **stun gun**.

Telegraph, 10 March 2009

In August 2008 David Constantine admitted putting his neighbours, a man and his wife, in fear of violence. He had subjected them to a catalogue of violence including threats to kill and firing an **airgun** while they were having a barbecue in their garden in **Lanchester**, County Durham. A judge gave him six months to sell his house or face prison. A ban on his visiting the property has now been lifted as he has been unable to sell the house. He has been given a six month suspended jail sentence with the provision that he does not cause nuisance to his neighbours or communicate with them.

Lancashire Evening Post, 10 March 2009

A lorry driver was hijacked and forced to drive hundreds of miles with a **stun gun** pointed at him. The robbers pulled in front of his cab on the M6 at **Fulwood**, Preston, and abducted him. He was forced to drive to Walsall where his trailer was unhooked. He then had to drive to Gloucestershire where he was tied up and left in his cab.

Express & Star, 10 March 2009

An Uzi machine gun and ammunition have been discovered hidden under a hut at a property in **Merridale**, Wolverhampton. The house owner had no idea that the weapon was being concealed at his property. The police found it after acting on information.

Express & Star, 10 March 2009

Leon Boothe and a 17-year-old girl have admitted possession of a **shotgun** and possession of cocaine with intent to supply. The shotgun was at a flat in **Wolverhampton** where Boothe was found outside and the girl inside. He was jailed for nine years and the girl was given a custodial sentence of four-and-a-half years.

Road Transport, 9 March 2009

A lorry driver was stunned with a **Taser gun** and dumped by the side of the road as his truck and load were stolen from outside an industrial estate in **Saltley**, Birmingham.

Harlow Herald, 9 March 2009

Two men have both been charged with one count of robbery, one count of possession of a firearm, one count of possessing a firearm with intent to commit robbery and various counts of illegally transferring property contrary to the proceeds of crime act 2002. The charges follow an armed robbery outside a supermarket in **Harlow**, Essex, in February 2008 in which two men armed with a **shotgun** stole a five figure sum of cash from a security van.

Daily Echo, 9 March 2009

A shop assistant was threatened with a handgun during an armed robbery at a newsagents in **Poole**, Dorset. Only a small amount of money was taken. A man has been arrested and released on police bail while enquiries continue.

BBC, 9 March 2009

Four teenagers and a man were arrested after a 14-year-old girl was sexually assaulted and a **shotgun** was fired at a private party in **Oxfordshire**. Police recovered what was believed to be a firearm after a search of the area.

BBC, 9 March 2009

A man is in hospital following reports of gun shots in a street in **Finsbury Park**, north London. Officers found evidence at the scene that a firearm had been discharged. The man's condition is not life-threatening.

This is Local London, 8 March 2009

Four youths robbed an off licence in **Bromley**, south London, at gunpoint. One of them pointed a handgun at the shop assistant who gave them money from the till and the safe. They fled with around £700 cash, £200 worth of cigarettes and around £200 worth of drink.

BBC, 8 March 2009

A man was shot several times in the leg as he was getting out of his car in **Luton**, Bedfordshire. The shots were fired from another car which had pulled up. He is in a stable, but not serious condition in hospital.

BBC, 8 March 2009

A service station cashier has been threatened at gunpoint by robbers in **Manton**, Nottinghamshire. The men escaped with the till and its contents. Armed response officers later recovered a firearm.

BBC, 7 March 2009

A shop assistant was threatened with a handgun during a second armed robbery at the premises in **Wolverhampton** in a week. Two men took cash from the till. Five days earlier a shopkeeper had tackled two men who threatened him with a firearm and they left empty-handed.

BBC, 7 March 2009

An 8-year-old boy is critically ill after suffering **shotgun** wounds to his abdomen and arm. He was injured during a shooting at a travellers' site in **Gateshead**, Tyneside. A 10-year-old boy has been arrested and remains in custody. Police are still hunting for the weapon responsible for the boy's injuries (*BBC*, 23 March 2009).

The Citizen (Preston), 6 March 2009

Passers-by were shot at with an **air rifle** in **Longridge**, Lancashire. Two women suffered minor injuries after they were hit whilst walking. Two teenagers, aged 16 and 17, have been arrested in one of the flats from which the shots were fired.

Birmingham Mail, 6 March 2009

A man has been shot a number of times with what was believed to be a pistol as he was walking towards the front door of his home in **Small Heath**, Birmingham. The victim is in a critical but stable condition. It is thought that the shooting was specifically targeted.

Wandsworth Guardian, 5 March 2009

Police found a loaded gun stuffed into a sock after they had chased two men in **Battersea**, south London. A man has been charged with possession of a prohibited weapon, ammunition and an offensive weapon. Two other people were arrested but were later released on police bail

This is Local London, 5 March 2009

Police have released an e-fit image of a man they want to speak to in connection with an armed robbery in **Wooburn Green**, Buckinghamshire, which left a security guard pistol whipped outside a store. Two masked raiders stole a cash box during the raid in February 2008.

Surrey Herald, 5 March 2009

A woman from **Cobham**, Surrey, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, has spoken about how she has been terrorised by gangs of youths for 15 years. She has now been shot at by an **air rifle**. She has lodged a formal complaint against the police claiming the force's response to antisocial behaviour in the area is inadequate.

The Press, 5 March 2009

A teenager fired a **ball-bearing gun** in the grounds of his school in **York** injuring another pupil. The 12-year-old victim did not suffer any serious or visible injuries. The gun, an orange-coloured rifle, has been seized by police.

BBC, 5 March 2009

Three men are in custody following an armed robbery at a jewellers in **York** during which a man carrying a gun threatened staff.

BBC, 5 March 2009

A man has been shot dead in a cafe in **Mottingham**, south east London. A man was arrested at the scene and a firearm was subsequently recovered. He has been charged with murder (*BBC*, 7 March 2009).

This is Kent, 4 March 2009

Firefighters were called to recover three stolen **shotguns** worth £6,000 from the River Stour in **Chartham**, Kent. They were stolen during a burglary at **Boughton Lees**, near Ashford, in February.

Hucknall Dispatch, 4 March 2009

Two men armed with a gun and a knife burst into a pub in **Hucknall**, Nottinghamshire, and after threatening staff they fled with about £2,000 in cash. The raid took place in February 2009. A bullet was later found on the floor of the pub.

Evening Star, 4 March 2009

Alan Loveridge, who was part of a gang that terrorised shopkeepers in Suffolk, has been jailed for eight years. The gang raided premises in **Newmarket**, where they left empty handed despite staff being threatened with a **shotgun**, and **Barrow** where a gun was pointed at a man and the gang escaped with £2,200. The raids took place in November 2006.

The Citizen (Blackburn), 4 March 2009

Thousands of pounds worth of damage has been caused to historic windows at a church in **Darwen**, Lancashire. Several **air rifle** pellets have been retrieved from the church.

BBC, 4 March 2009

A man was shot in **Bushbury**, West Midlands. A man has been charged with attempted murder and firearms offences.

BBC, 4 March 2009

Masked men threatened staff at a betting shop in **Aldershot**, Hampshire, with a firearm before stealing almost £1,000.

Southport Visiter, 3 March 2009

A family were trapped inside a house in **Birkdale**, Lancashire, when a gunman opened fire. Reports suggest that the suspect fired seven times. At least one bullet is said to have pierced a front window.

The Sentinel, 3 March 2009

A teenager has appeared in court following an alleged gun incident in **Middleport**, Staffordshire. He has been charged with possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause three others to believe that unlawful violence would be used. The incident is alleged to have involved a **gas-powered BB gun**. He faces further charges and was remanded in custody.

Liverpool Daily Post, 3 March 2009

Shots were fired at a house in **Huyton**, Merseyside. No-one was injured.

Eastbourne Today, 3 March 2009

Airgun pellets have been fired at a house in **Pevensey Bay**, East Sussex, causing hundreds of pounds worth of damage. The owners were out at the time.

Bolton News, 3 March 2009

A taxi driver was robbed at gunpoint by four men he drove to a street in **Bolton**, Greater Manchester. The men returned to the car threatened their victim and told him to hand over all of his belongings.

Southport Visiter, 2 March 2009

A man armed with a square barrelled handgun demanded cash from a post office in **Birkdale**, Lancashire. He ran out empty handed after his demands were refused.

Echo, 2 March 2009

Gary Mills was stopped by police in **Walthamstow**, north London, in 2007 in possession of a gun. He fled to Spain but was extradited and has now admitted a string of offences including possessing a prohibited firearm and possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He also admitted the attempted robbery of a family outside their home in Sunningdale, Berkshire, in 1998, to which he was linked by DNA on a baseball cap left at the scene. He was jailed for a total of 15 years.

Daily Mail, 2 March 2009

The **Armed Forces** have lost track of more than 165 pistols, rifles and machine guns and 27,000 bullets in the last three years, some of which could have been stolen. Between 2000 and 2007 109 guns were lost or stolen from military barracks, only 35 of which have been recovered. The weapons taken include 30 antique rifles taken from the walls of officers' messes.

Chester Chronicle, 2 March 2009

An armed robber threatened a female post office worker in **Helsby**, Cheshire, with a black handgun and made off with cash. Police are not ruling out a link with an armed robbery on a bookmakers in nearby **Frodsham** in February when a female member of staff was also threatened by a man with a handgun who stole cash. The police have now said that the man believed to be responsible for the Frodsham robbery committed a second robbery on a bookmakers in **Hoole**, Chester, a week later. The suspect is an escaped armed raider who escaped from court in December. He has since been caught and has now been charged with 14 new offences (*Daily Post*, 10 March 2009).

BBC, 2 March 2009

Two robbers armed with a shotgun and a metal pole have stolen cash from a video store in **Maidenhead**, Berkshire. Police are linking it to a similar robbery in **Slough** in February 2009 (see [Incidents](#)).

BBC, 2 March 2009

A man was arrested after another man was threatened with a gun in a pub in **Christchurch**, Dorset. The man was arrested at a nearby property.

The Sentinel, 1 March 2009

Armed police swooped on a house in **Burslem**, Staffordshire, after a man was seen brandishing a gun in the street. The police said they had received a report that a gun had been fired and two people had been injured but neither had required hospital treatment. A man was arrested and a handgun recovered.

BBC, 1 March 2009

A car thief threatened to shoot a police officer during a chase in Greater Manchester. Officers were following a stolen car when it was abandoned and the thief ran off along a railway track. He produced a handgun and asked an officer if he wanted shooting. He escaped towards **Ardwick** railway station.

SCOTLAND

Perthshire Advertiser, 31 March 2009

A man from **Stanley**, Perthshire, has appeared in court has denied having a firearm in his possession with intent to cause another man to believe that unlawful violence would be used against him. A second charge alleges that he stole a **gat gun** from a farm in Stanley on the same day.

BBC, 31 March 2009

Allan Dickson repeatedly fired an **air pistol** to "frighten" a group of men who attacked him as he was walking home in **Edinburgh**. He went into his home and was seen later standing in his garden firing the gas-powered gun. He handed the gun to a friend and it was recovered from her home. He has pleaded guilty to a breach of the peace and possessing a firearm in a public place.

Evening News, 28 March 2009

Sean McGovern has pleaded guilty to blasting a **shotgun** at a pub in **Broomhouse**, Edinburgh. Two shots were fired as a warning to a rival drug dealer who was drinking there. The shooting occurred in September 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). Terry Scott who drove McGovern to the pub admitted a charge of repeatedly discharging a loaded shotgun to the danger of the public on the basis he was acting in concert. McGovern also admitted drugs charges. Sentencing was deferred.

Daily Record, 28 March 2009

Christopher Slowey, 18, pointed a **ball bearing pistol** at a shopkeeper in **Baillieston**, Glasgow, and pulled the trigger. He was chased empty-handed from the shop. Slowey admitted attempted robbery and being on bail at the time of the raid in November 2008. He was given a four year sentence.

Dumfries & Galloway Standard, 25 March 2009

A 20-year-old who claimed he bought a **stun gun** found at a house in **Annan**, Dumfriesshire, as a novelty in Blackpool and had no intention of using it. Kyle Hall admitted having a prohibited weapon at his home without the authority of the Secretary of State. He also pleaded guilty to drug charges.

BBC, 23 March 2009

Robert Brown admitted pointing a **BB gun** at a woman's head in a dispute over a Playstation game. The incident took place at a house in **Motherwell**, North Lanarkshire, in November 2008. He admitted uttering threats of violence, holding the gun to his victim's head and having a BB gun in his possession. Sentencing has been deferred.

Sunday Mail, 22 March 2009

Patrick Trueman terrified three boys in **Ardrossan**, Ayrshire, by following them with an **air rifle**. He has been fined £600.

Daily Record, 18 March 2009

A man was shot a number of times in the side when he pulled into a cul-de-sac in **Springburn**, Glasgow. He had been chased through the city's west end. It has been suggested that the shooting was a drugs-related gangland hit. The victim was being treated in hospital.

BBC, 18 March 2009

A man has admitted firing a **paintball gun** at a colleague in **Ratho**, Edinburgh. Calvin Blyth was found guilty of culpably and recklessly discharging a paintball gun. His victim has suffered long-term damage to his eye after being shot. Blyth was a paintball marshal at a paintball centre where the two men were cleaning and doing safety checks. Sentencing will take place next month.

BBC, 14 March 2009

A robber threatened a man with a firearm at a house in **Robroyston**, Glasgow, before fleeing with hundreds of pounds in cash.

BBC, 10 March 2009

A man who bought a **stun gun** during a holiday in Thailand was caught trying to bring it into Scotland at **Edinburgh Airport** in September 2008. Gary Bell pleaded guilty to charges under firearms legislation. Sentence was deferred for background reports.

BBC, 10 March 2009

A man will be reported to the procurator fiscal following what police described as a firearms incident in **Inverness**. Armed police were dispatched to the scene following a call from a concerned member of the public.

Sunday Mail, 8 March 2009

A man has been charged with the armed abduction of a male manager and a female shop assistant, two breaches of the peace and four contraventions of the Firearms Act. This follows an incident in **Grangemouth**.

BBC, 5 March 2009

In July 2008 Ahsan Shahid, Farooq Mushtaq, and Omar Sadiq pursued two men in a car in the southside of **Glasgow** and pointed a firearm or similar weapon at them and tried to ram into their car. Six days later two of them carried out a similar attack on two other men in the same area. They have been convicted of carrying out the assaults. The three men have been jailed for a total of 11-and-a-half years (*BBC*, 26 March 2009).

Ayrshire Post, 5 March 2009

A man who walked through an industrial estate in **Ayr** with an **air rifle** visible in August 2008 has been told by a sheriff that he could have caused chaos. Mark Rogerson realised the seriousness of breaching the regulation that required the weapon to be covered up. His sentence was deferred for six months.

BBC, 3 March 2009

Two masked men threatened security men with a gun outside a bank in **Uddingston**, Lanarkshire, and escaped with hundreds of thousands of pounds in cash in a car driven by a third suspect.

Hawick News, 2 March 2009

Jason Hook has admitted having an unloaded **air pistol** without reasonable excuse in **Hawick** in December 2008. He tried to put the gun through a letterbox but it was pushed back to him. He has had sentence deferred for six months.

WALES

Wales Online, 27 March 2009

A farmer has been found dead with **shotgun** wounds to his chest. He was discovered in a field on the **Caerphilly** border with **Rhondda Cynon Taf**.

Daily Post, 21 March 2009

A customer was shot in the neck by an armed robber at a supermarket in **Old Colwyn**, Denbighshire. The weapon was a **BB gun** and the customer was shot when he stood between the robber and a shop assistant. Minutes earlier a mother had been punched in the face and her son stabbed when two men armed with a gun and a knife had burst into a nearby home. The shooting victim suffered non-life threatening injuries and was later discharged from hospital. Three men were later arrested and have been charged with robbery, aggravated burglary and possession of an imitation firearm (*BBC*, 23 March 2009).

BBC, 18 March 2009

David Bowen fired a **shotgun** at a group of teenagers outside his house. He had previously complained of up to 20 youths throwing stones and food at his home in **Bridgend**, but on the night he fired the gun in December 2008 there had been no trouble. Some pellets hit a 16-year-old boy. He pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm with intent and common assault and was jailed for 20 months.

BBC, 17 March 2009

A teenager who hid a handgun for a "potentially murderous" gang has admitted possessing a firearm and ammunition. The gun was found inside a sock in Thando Ngomgoma's bedroom in **Cardiff**. He has been sentenced to five years in a young offenders' institution.

South Wales Argus, 13 March 2009

A man has been arrested for the unlawful possession of a firearm after armed police raided two properties in **Blaina**, Abertillery.

Barry & District News, 12 March 2009

A street in the centre of **Barry** was sealed off by armed police after gun shots were fired. A man was arrested on suspicion of using an **air rifle**.

Wales Online, 2 March 2009

Police are investigating reports that a window of the BBC Wales studios in **Cardiff** was shot with an **airgun**. A window in the front reception was reported to have been shot and smashed.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Sunderland Echo, 31 March 2009

A pair of swans have been found dead at a lake at **Silksworth**, Sunderland. A number of **airgun** pellets were found at the side of the water. Police have said, however, that until x-rays and a post-mortem examination are carried out they cannot be sure swans were killed maliciously.

Bristol Evening Post, 30 March 2009

A report on a spate of incidents in which cats have been poisoned or shot describes how a kitten in **Withywood**, Bristol, had to have its leg amputated after it was believed to have been shot, shortly before two other cats in the area disappeared. PDSA vets x-rayed the cat and found an **airgun** pellet lodged in her elbow joint.

Lincolnshire Echo, 27 March 2009

A cat has suffered devastating injuries after he was shot in the face with a **shotgun** in **Whisby**, Lincolnshire. The cat has already undergone two operations and will have to have a third to reconstruct his face.

Salisbury Journal, 26 March 2009

A cat was shot twice with an **airgun** in an apparently deliberate attack in **Salisbury**. X-rays revealed pellets in her chest and front right leg. The pellet in the leg was removed but it was too dangerous to remove the one in her chest.

BBC, 26 March 2009

A sixth buzzard has been found shot dead at a golf club in **Aglionby**, Cumbria. The carcasses of the birds have been found at the club in the last three months. Buzzards are a protected species.

Derby Evening Telegraph, 23 March 2009

A cat shot with an **air rifle** was in excruciating pain for days because a pellet had left three abscesses around his stomach. The owner from **Stenson Fields**, Derby, does not know if her insurance will cover the £1500 cost of the operation needed to save his life.

Wiltshire Times & Chippenham News, 21 March 2009

A five-year-old boy witnessed his greyhound being hit by an **airgun** pellet as he and his mother walked their three dogs in **Corsham**, Wiltshire. Two gunshots were heard and a man was seen to run off. The dog is now recovering well.

Reading Evening Post, 20 March 2009

A cat had to have one of his legs amputated after being shot in **Tilehurst**, Berkshire. A vet confirmed he had been shot with an **airgun**.

The Sentinel, 18 March 2009

A cat was shot with an **air rifle** in **Cheadle**, Staffordshire. The pellet went through his ear and is lodged behind an eye. He may lose sight in that eye.

Birmingham Mail, 17 March 2009

A male swan has been shot dead and his mate was fighting for her life at a wildlife centre after they were targeted on a canal in **Wednesfield**, West Midlands. Another swan was attacked on the same canal recently and nine **airgun** pellets were found in its body but managed to survive (see [January 2009 Incidents](#)).

BBC, 13 March 2009

A female swan was found dead at a pond in **Godstone Green**, Surrey. She had a hole in her neck, and experts believe the injury was caused by a type of **air weapon**. Her mate has been permanently moved from the site.

Press & Journal, 11 March 2009

For the second time this year a pet cat has been shot with an **airgun** pellet in **Macduff**, Aberdeenshire. The cat was lucky to survive after a pellet went through his hip and lodged near his groin. Vets managed to remove the pellet safely.

The Comet, 11 March 2009

A cat has had to have a leg amputated after being shot with an **air weapon** near his home in **Letchworth**, Hertfordshire. He had returned home limping, howling and crying with pain. An X-ray revealed a pellet had shattered his hip, causing considerable damage to the remained of his leg.

This is Staffordshire, 7 March 2009

A cat has been left with an **air rifle** pellet lodged near its lung after being shot in **Meir**, Staffordshire. She was "crying like a baby" but there was no blood or obvious wound, but an X-ray showed the pellet stuck in her chest.



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