



MARCH 2010 - REVIEW

DOMESTIC INCIDENTS AND FEMALE GUN VICTIMS

During the year ending March 2010, the period used by the Home Office and the Scottish Government for compiling detailed gun crime statistics, there was another drop in the number of male gun homicide victims (GCN estimates there were 32 in England and Wales and 1 in Scotland). With respect to the overall total, however, this fall has been offset by the number of females who were killed.

- Since the last week of March 2009 nine women and one 4-year-old girl have been shot dead.
- All but one are known to have been killed in domestic incidents by a partner, ex-partner or, in one instance, father. The other fatality, one of two in March 2010, has also been linked to a domestic dispute, though the identity of the gunman is not yet known.
- After seven of the deaths the perpetrator killed himself - in only one instance was the possibility of a suicide pact mentioned.
- In May 2009 another woman died after being shot with a bolt gun, not classified as a firearm, by a man whom she knew and had been stalking her.
- There were two further incidents involving girls, one shot in the leg in July 2009 and the other abducted at gunpoint in March 2010, and their mothers' former partners who then killed themselves with shotguns.
- GCN estimates that in the last 10 years nearly three quarters of all female shooting fatalities occurred in domestic incidents.
- A recent court case in which a woman was convicted of murder after shooting her husband in January 2009 was a reminder that, whilst the vast majority of those affected are women, men can also become victims of armed domestic violence.

There is a tendency for such incidents to be treated as tragic but rather private incidents, at odds with the pattern of gun crime usually portrayed by the media and politicians. The numbers may be small, but as the figures quoted above show they make up a significant proportion of all gun homicides in Great Britain. Concerns about gun crime should be the same regardless of whether the incidents occur on the street or within the confines of a family home, and the seriousness of the crime must not be downplayed because the perpetrator kills himself. The possibility that guns kept in the home can be and are abused should never be ignored.

Whilst not all the details have been released and there is an apparent reluctance by the police to provide information in these cases, it is clear that the weapons used are usually too easily available. In two of the three incidents which involved illegal handguns the presence of guns in the house was apparently well known. One man from Devon was a collector of antique guns, the other from Aldershot had found a pistol in a skip and had kept it. Following the triple shooting in Aldershot, Hampshire Police have announced a gun amnesty saying that "many people within the community have told us they are unaware of the laws surrounding gun ownership". However, in a large proportion of domestic incidents the likelihood remains that the gun used will be legally-owned. Eight of the incidents mentioned above involved shotguns, with the majority of the perpetrators, if not all, licensed owners. In most domestic violence situations it is the presence of the gun in the home, not its legal status, which is critical.

A full list of [Domestic Incidents](#) involving guns is provided on the GCN website.

Incidents reported in March 2010

Daily Mirror, 31 March 2010

Helen Lawson fired both barrels of a **shotgun** at point-blank range at her husband after waking him up in bed at their home in **Wellow**, Isle of Wight, in January 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). She was found guilty of murder and will serve a minimum of 15 years in prison.

BBC, 31 March 2010

A coroner has criticised police in Lincolnshire for "extraordinary" failings in the lead up to a man shooting his teenage step-daughter before killing himself. Elvis Cant was on police bail accused of assaulting and threatening to kill her at the time of the incident in **Potterhanworth**, Lincolnshire, where Cant had tracked her down in July 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). He had a **double-barrelled shotgun** he had bought hours earlier and struggled with his step-daughter's natural father before shooting her in the leg and then missing her with a second shot. He was found dead an hour later in a nearby field with gunshot wounds. Officers had confiscated three shotguns from Cant but did not take his firearms certificate allowing him to buy the other gun. An open verdict was recorded on Cant because the coroner was not entirely clear how he came by his death. Lincolnshire Police offered an unreserved apology to the victim and her family.

BBC, 31 March 2010

Andrew Copland shot his ex-partner and their 4-year-old daughter at his home in **Aldershot**, Hampshire, in December 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) before killing himself an inquest heard. The weapon was a 1934 Beretta semi-automatic pistol. His ex-partner's new boyfriend said she had told him Copland was violent and had a gun in the loft. The coroner recorded that he had unlawfully killed the mother and child and then took his own life. Copland had found the gun in a skip whilst he was working as a builder in 1998 (*BBC*, 2 April 2010).

Press Association, 24 March 2010

A man has killed himself after holding a child hostage at gunpoint in **Dingwall**, Ross-shire, for three hours. Police had managed to negotiate the child's safe release. The gunman had abducted the 11-year-old daughter of a former girlfriend and shot himself with a **shotgun** (*The Herald*, 25 March 2010). The man had broken a series of court bans on approaching the girl's mother after previously assaulting her (*Highland News*, 1 April 2010).

Evening Standard, 23 March 2010

A woman has been shot on the doorstep of her home in **Clapton**, east London. She was found with fatal injuries and pronounced dead at the scene. It has been suggested that the murder was a domestic incident that got out of hand and that the weapon was a **shotgun** (*Hackney Post*, 25 March 2010).

BBC, 17 March 2010

A married couple have been found dead at a house in **Bishopbriggs**, East Dunbartonshire, after a suspected shooting incident. The police are not believed to be looking for anyone else in connection with the incident. It is reported that the man took his **double-barrelled shotgun** from a locked cabinet and waited for his wife to return from her job. He shot her and then himself. It is alleged by one of the man's friends that he had said that "he'd had enough of his wife and was going home to shoot her. We knew he had a gun licence".

BBC, 9 March 2010

Two people have been found dead with gunshot wounds at a flat in **Cheshunt**, Hertfordshire. A handgun was recovered from the scene. The police were not looking for anyone else in relation to the incident. It is understood that the man shot his ex-partner before killing himself (*Telegraph*, 9 March 2010).

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - Ten people, three women and seven men, died in shooting incidents during March. At least five of the male fatalities were self-inflicted and eight of the shootings involved shotguns:
 - There were two shotgun killings in London, a man who died on an estate in Gypsy Hill and a woman shot dead on the doorstep of a house in Clapton.
 - Two other incidents were apparent domestic murder-suicides in Cheshunt (Hertfordshire) (involving a handgun) and Bishopbriggs (East Dunbartonshire) (a shotgun) in which the female victim was shot by her partner who then killed himself.
 - A man shot himself with a shotgun in Dingwall (Ross-shire) after abducting his ex-girlfriend's daughter at gunpoint.
 - In two other incidents a 14-year-old boy from Merstham (Surrey) and a man from Fawley (Hampshire) apparently killed themselves with shotguns.
 - A man died from a shotgun wound at a house in Brightmet (Lancashire) - the circumstances are not known.
- Nineteen other people were injured in shooting attacks, 11 of whom were hit with pellets from airguns and BB guns:
 - Greater Manchester (1) - a man was shot with a shotgun in a pub in Hazel Grove
 - Kent (1) - a woman was shot with a shotgun by a man who called at her house (a man has been charged with attempted murder and possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence)
 - Lancashire (1) - a security guard was shot in the leg during a robbery in Fulwood
 - London (3) - two men were shot in Stepney (one was arrested along with two other men), and a man was shot in the shoulder in Dalston
 - Nottinghamshire (1) - a man was shot in the leg in Top Valley (Nottingham)
 - Scotland (1) - a man was shot in the face and stabbed in a pub in Edinburgh (two men have been accused of assault with intent to murder, one of them with a breach of the Firearms Act 1968)
- Airgun and BB gun shootings:
 - County Durham (1) - a passer-by was hit on the side of the head when pedestrians and vehicles were targeted with an airgun in Durham
 - Greater Manchester (1) - a man in a bookmakers in Middleton was shot in the chest with a ball-bearing gun during an attempted robbery (see below)
 - Kent (1) - a 15-year-old was shot with a BB gun after being robbed of £2.50 by three other teenagers in Ashford (see below)
 - North Yorkshire (1) - a woman was shot in the head with an airgun in York
 - Scotland (2) - a woman jogger was stuck by airgun pellets near Haddington (East Lothian), and a 16-year-old was shot with an air weapon in Cardenden (Fife)
 - Somerset (1) - a dog walker was shot with an airgun in Taunton
 - Suffolk (1) - a shopkeeper was shot in the face with a BB gun during a robbery in Ipswich (see below)
 - Wiltshire (1) - a woman was shot in the leg with a BB gun in Chippenham (Wiltshire) whilst she was putting her young child into a car seat
 - Wales (2) - two pupils were hit when an airgun sniper took shots at children in a school playground in Llanrug (Gwynedd)
- A 15-year-old boy was found alone in a house in Newport (Gwent) with a gunshot wound - his stepfather has been charged with possessing a prohibited weapon, perverting the course of justice and neglecting the boy.
- A man was seriously hurt when he dropped a shotgun at a farm in Combe Martin (Devon).

- A man was in a critical condition following an incident with a bolt gun at a butchers in Chipping (Lancashire) - the incident is not being treated as suspicious.
- A victim was pistol-whipped during a robbery at a flat in Southend (Essex).
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - There were robberies and attempted robberies allegedly involving guns at **Banks, Post Offices and Sorting Offices** (5) in Hensall (North Yorkshire) (sawn-off shotguns) and Owston Ferry (Humberside) (two men have been charged with these two robberies and another in Thorne), Droylsden (Greater Manchester) (shotgun), Peterborough (imitation gun) (a man has admitted this and an attempted car robbery in Cambridge) and Melsonby (North Yorkshire) (pistol; a woman was bludgeoned to death in the flat above the premises before the robbery), **Bookmakers** (4) in Stalybridge (Cheshire) (handgun), Blantyre (South Lanarkshire), Middleton (Greater Manchester) (ball-bearing gun) (a man was shot in the chest) and Thorne (South Yorkshire) (two men have been charged with this and two post office robberies), **Pubs** (2) in Stoneycroft (Liverpool) (shotgun) and Brixton (south London), **Service Stations** (5) in Southend (Essex), Lowestoft (Suffolk) (small handgun), Wakefield (West Yorkshire) (a man was later arrested), Ashton-under-Lyne (Greater Manchester) (air pistol) (three suspects, two of them teenagers, have been arrested) and Andover (Hampshire), **Shops and a Cash-and-Carry** (11) in Clapham Junction (south London) (reported by the public but not confirmed by police), Hartshill (Stoke-on-Trent) (handgun), Bradford, Chelmsford (Essex), Widnes (Cheshire) (shotgun), Mossley Hill (Merseyside) (shotgun), Ipswich (BB gun) (the shopkeeper was shot in the face), Ludwell (Dorset) (handgun), Westerham (Kent), Hanley (Staffordshire) (handgun) and Chilwell (Nottinghamshire) and **Travel Agencies** (2) in Upminster (east London) and Mossley Hill (Liverpool) (handgun).
- **Security men** were robbed in Glasgow, Chichester (West Sussex) (two men were arrested and two decommissioned handguns seized) and Fulwood (Lancashire) (a security man was shot in the leg), and a post office van driver was held at gunpoint in Hayes (west London).
- Guns were used during robberies at **Homes** in Oldham (Greater Manchester), Southend (Essex) (a victim was pistol-whipped), Bradshaw (Lancashire) (shotgun; a man was badly injured when he tried to fight off a gang), Bradford (sawn-off shotgun), Belsize Park and Hampstead (north London) (a man was responsible for a number of muggings), Norbury (south London) (the robbery took place in February), Caddington (Bedfordshire) (the men were armed with shotguns but also stole two shotguns from the home owners) and Croxteth (Liverpool).
- In **Car** thefts and attempted thefts involving guns, a man had a weapon put to his head in Norbury (south London), a man was beaten with a baton in Dewsbury (West Yorkshire), a woman in Cambridge had an imitation gun pressed against her before her car was stolen (a man has already admitted this and a robbery at a bank in Peterborough), and a man was ordered to hand over car keys in Battersea (south west London).
- In **Street** robberies a pistol was used when a woman and two young children were threatened in Chiswick (west London), an imitation gun is believed to have been used when a laptop was stolen in Hatfield (Hertfordshire) (a teenager was arrested), and a teenager was shot in a street in Ashford (Kent) (three teenagers have been arrested).
- **Other Incidents** - Shots were fired during a number of other incidents:
 - Greater Manchester - a bullet, probably fired from a handgun, shattered a car windscreen in Great Lever
 - London - during incidents in Ilford, Seven Kings, and Stoke Newington
 - Merseyside - near playing fields in Vauxhall and at a house in Croxteth

- Nottinghamshire - from cars in New Basford (Nottingham) (two men were arrested and released on bail), and a gun was discharged in Hucknall
 - Somerset - a father and his stepchildren believe they were shot at after being confronted by a man with a shotgun when they were picking flowers by the side of a road in Keenthorpe (a man was arrested)
 - West Sussex - four teenagers were arrested in Chichester after a window was damaged
- Two paramedics allegedly had a gun pulled on them at a home in Bath (Somerset) (a man and a woman were arrested and a number of weapons retrieved). A man from Barrow (Cumbria) appeared in court after allegedly threatening another man with a gun.
- A man and a woman were arrested on suspicion of assault, possession of a firearm without a certificate and the cultivation of cannabis after police were called to an incident in Chislet (Kent).
- Two men were arrested at a hotel in Kendal (Cumbria) after a man was seen with a gun - three firearms were found at a house near the town. Another man appeared in court after allegedly being in possession of a firearm and a loaded air weapon at a hotel in Wemyss Bay (Renfrewshire).
- Two men were arrested when armed police went to a house in Moss Side (Manchester) after a man had been seen with a firearm in Hulme. A man was detained after reports of a man brandishing a gun in Saltdean (East Sussex) - no weapon was found.
- A man was dragged from a bus near Victoria Station (central London) after he pulled out a suspected gun.
- Five men were arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm after a car was stopped and searched in Weston-super-Mare (Somerset) and a handgun found.
- A woman, believed to have a gun, was detained under the Mental Health Act after barricading herself inside a property in Waddington (Oxfordshire). Another woman was sectioned after she claimed she had a gun in an incident in Hatfield (Hertfordshire). A third woman was arrested after an incident outside a house in Southend (Essex) where a woman had reported she had been threatened with a gun.
- A landlord of a pub in Barcombe (East Sussex) waved his shotgun from a window at two burglars who later fled the scene.
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns** - Besides those incidents which resulted in injury (see above) there were others involving airguns and imitation weapons. They were probably used in many of the **armed robberies** and this was certainly so for those in Ashford (Kent), Ashton-under-Lyne (Greater Manchester), Cambridge, Hatfield (Hertfordshire), Ipswich, Middleton (Greater Manchester) and Peterborough (see above).
- A minor fired a BB gun in Langloan (North Lanarkshire) prompting a police response and warnings, and later in the same locality an armed response reacted to a report that someone fired an air rifle at officers in Coatbridge.
- In a second incident this month involving a person on a bus a man was arrested after a member of the public raised the alarm in Peacehaven (East Sussex) - a BB gun and an air rifle were recovered.
- One person was charged with possession of an imitation firearm after what is thought to have been a bungled robbery at a cannabis factory in Winhill (Staffordshire).
- A pupil at a school in Camden (north London) was arrested after pointing a toy gun at other pupils - he was suspended by the school. Three other boys have been expelled from their school in Birmingham after been seen with a BB gun on CCTV.
- A number of vehicles on the A309 in Surrey were damaged when shots were fired from an air rifle.

- Windows were damaged with airguns in Leigh-on-Sea (Essex), in Lascelles Hall (West Yorkshire), in a tower block in Rotherhithe (south east London) (77 windows were smashed), and on a train approaching Stowmarket (Suffolk)
- An air rifle was apparently fired when reporters were investigating a family alleged to have tormented fellow residents in Crawley (West Sussex). Children using BB guns are part of a vandalism problem on an estate in Witham (Essex).
- **Guns Recoveries and Thefts** - Guns were found during searches in which drugs were recovered in Plymouth (stun gun; one man charged), Mottingham (south London) (shotgun, rifle, air pistol; 2 people arrested), Ravensthorpe (West Yorkshire) (air rifle; 2 arrested), linked raids in Epping Forest, Harlow and Brentwood (Essex) (ball-bearing gun, air weapon; 11 people arrested), Merseyside (stun guns; 11 suspects charged), Teignmouth (Devon) (air rifle; 2 arrested), Luton (imitation shotgun; 2 arrested), Nottingham (one man arrested), Dovecot (Merseyside) (handgun; 2 arrested), Tullibody (Clackmannanshire) (handgun; 3 arrested), and Newport (Gwent) (stun gun; one man arrested).
- A number of other guns were recovered during police operations:
 - An air rifle was found at an address in Grangetown (Teesside) after a burglary at an industrial site in Redcar (three men were arrested).
 - Firearms were seized during raids in Lancashire when a number of people were arrested, including a police officer from Walton-le-Dale who has been charged with a series of offences including three counts of possession of a firearm and possession of ammunition.
 - Two men were arrested after a raid in Shepherd's Bush (west London) when a revolver was found.
 - A security officer at Belmarsh Prison (south east London) was arrested after an automatic firearm was found at his home.
 - A man and a woman were arrested after a loaded Mac 10 machine pistol was found at a home in Blakenhall (Wolverhampton).
 - A shotgun and ammunition were seized in the Dewsbury area (West Yorkshire) and a loaded Uzi machine gun, bullets and cartridges were recovered from a house in Holbeck (Leeds) (a man and a woman have been arrested).
 - An arsenal of weapons was found in an attic in Paisley included a shotgun, two revolvers and a ball-bearing gun
 - During a 6-month operation in Edinburgh a handgun, shotgun and imitation guns have been seized
- Youngsters playing near their homes in Rawthorpe (West Yorkshire) found a rusty shotgun.
- A rifle was stolen from a farm near Ledbury (Herefordshire) and two shotguns were stolen during a robbery at a home in Caddington (Bedfordshire) (see above).
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - There were more reports of animals and birds being shot.
- Cats were shot with airguns in Aberdeen, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Devon, Greater Manchester (two incidents), Hampshire (other cats from the same home may have been shot in earlier incidents) and West Yorkshire (two incidents), and with a shotgun in Gloucestershire.
- The SSPCA highlighted a case of cruelty in which a dog was shot in the head 13 times and left for dead by her drunk owner from Glasgow.
- A horse found with facial wounds in East Preston (Sussex) is thought to have been shot with an air rifle.
- There were a number of reports of birds being shot with airguns, a buzzard in Essex and swans in West Yorkshire and Leicestershire. A goshawk was shot with a shotgun in North Yorkshire.

- A man who shot and killed his neighbour's dog with an air rifle in Rugeley (Staffordshire) was fined £500 after admitting causing unnecessary suffering to an animal.
- Two men shot a sheep in Prestbury (Cheshire) with a shotgun to put it out of its misery but then fed it to their ferrets - both admitted criminal damage and one has now pleaded guilty to various firearm offences.

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- **Convictions** - A number of people were convicted following fatal shootings:
 - A man has pleaded guilty to the murder of a man in Bensham (Tyneside) in 1999.
 - A man was convicted of the murder of a teenager in St Ann's (Nottingham) in 2002 and given a life sentence, with a minimum of 22 years.
 - Two contract killers have been jailed for a minimum of 30 years each for the murder of a man shot dead outside his home in Dagenham (east London) in 2004.
 - Four men were convicted of the murder of a man who was shot in Kirkdale (Liverpool) in 2008 - they were given minimum sentences of between 27 and 32 years.
 - Two brothers will each serve a minimum of 28 years for the murder of a man in Oldham (Greater Manchester) in 2009.
 - A man has been jailed for the rest of his life for the murder and attempted murder of two men whom he shot with a shotgun in Bradford in 2009.
 - A woman clay pigeon shooter will serve a minimum of 15 years after being found guilty of the murder of her husband whom she shot with a shotgun in Wellow (Isle of Wight) in 2009.
 - Two teenagers were found guilty of the murder of a 16-year-old in Stretford (Greater Manchester) in 2009 - they were jailed for 23 and 21 years.
 - A number of people were convicted after incidents in which others were injured:
 - A man was convicted of the attempted murder of a man who was shot during race riots in Handsworth (Birmingham) in 2005.
 - Another offender has been convicted of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, GBH and two counts of ABH after a shooting at a nightclub in Bradford - he was sentenced to 13 years.
 - Two teenagers were found guilty of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and GBH after a shotgun shooting in Huyton (Merseyside).
 - After other incidents in which shotguns were fired:
 - a man from Mexborough (South Yorkshire) who fired his gun over the heads of two anglers was jailed for 2½ years
 - two men have been convicted of violent disorder and one of them of conspiracy to possess a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after an incident in Guisborough (Teesside) in which a shotgun was fired into a house - seven other men have admitted related offences
 - three men, two of them teenagers, were each jailed for 10 years after a man was injured on his doorstep in Barton (Oxford) when a shotgun went off as he slammed the door
 - The following cases involved possession of a firearm or ammunition:
 - A 14-year-old was given a 2-year intensive supervision and surveillance order after a loaded pistol which had been fired in six incidents in London was found at his home in Peckham (south London).
 - A man from Farnworth (Greater Manchester) has pleaded guilty to possessing an 8mm self-loading handgun and various ammunition.
 - A man convicted for his involvement with a chain of brothels in the North of England also pleaded guilty to owning a shotgun without a certificate.

- A drug addict who hid a shotgun and cartridges for a dealer when their car was stopped in Southampton admitted being in possession of the firearm and ammunition was jailed for 12 months.
- A man from Pembroke Dock (Dyfed) awaits sentence for possessing a shotgun with a shortened barrel.
- A man who described himself as a "gun nut" was fined a total of £2000 for unlawful possession of ammunition after police found antique pistols and rounds of ammunition at his house in Windlesham (Surrey).
- A man from Minchinhampton (Gloucestershire) has admitted three charges of possessing weaponry (.22 rifles and various ammunition) and been given a suspended 9-month jail sentence.
- A number of others admitted or were found guilty of possessing converted firearms (also see Gun Factory below):
 - A man found with a modified starting pistol and prohibited ammunition was found guilty of firearms offences and common assault following an incident in Nelson (Lancashire).
 - A man arrested at a flat in Newport (Gwent) with a modified blank-firing weapon following a tip off was jailed for 6 years for possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life.
 - An 18-year-old from Edmonton (north London) found with stolen goods and a converted replica pistol was sentenced to 5 years.
 - A man who posted a photograph of himself pointing a pistol on Facebook was jailed for 5 years after police found a converted imitation pistol at his home in Handsworth (Birmingham).
 - A man who had a blank-firing gun which he had converted to fire live ammunition and bullets at his home in North Tyneside was jailed for 5 years.
- The following cases related to armed robberies:
 - A man who claimed to have a gun during a robbery at a bookmakers in Penge (north west London) received a 16 month jail sentence - police suspect he did not have a weapon.
 - Two men have admitted a number of robberies and burglaries including one on a store in Benton (Tyneside) where staff were threatened with a shotgun and machete.
 - A man who was a member of a gang of four who raided a house in Handsworth (Birmingham) was found guilty of aggravated burglary and possessing a firearm with intent.
 - Two men were each jailed for sixteen years for a series of robberies in north London in which they posed as postmen - a stun gun was used on one victim in Enfield and a shotgun was left at the scene.
 - Four men have been found guilty of a £1.75m robbery at Heathrow Airport in 2004 when they were armed with handguns and been jailed for between 10 and 20½ years.
- A man from Banbury (Oxfordshire) who did not notify a change in address admitted failing to comply with a condition of a shotgun certificate and was given a 12-month conditional discharge. A man from Inverurie (Aberdeenshire) was fined £300 for each of two offences after he admitted failing to secure a shotgun and keep ammunition safe at home.
- **Gun Factory** - A gang of six men have received a total of 43 years in jail for their involvement with a gun factory in a living room in South Norwood (south London) where imitation and blank-firing guns were converted into lethal weapons.
- **Inquests** - An inquest jury recorded a verdict of unlawful killing against Greater Manchester Police officers following the death of a police officer during a training exercise in Newton Heath when he was shot with a shotgun.

- A coroner has recorded that a man who shot dead his ex-partner and their daughter took his own life and that his victims were unlawfully killed - all three were shot at his home in Aldershot (Hampshire) with a Beretta semi-automatic pistol.
- An open verdict has been recorded on a man found shot dead in Potterhanworth (Lincolnshire) an hour after he had shot and seriously injured his stepdaughter - the police have been criticised for not taking his shotgun certificate despite confiscating his three shotguns after he threatened to kill his victim, thus allowing him to buy the new shotgun he used on his victim and himself.
- Verdicts of suicide were recorded at the inquests into the deaths of two people, a woman from Shouldham Thorpe (Norfolk) and a man from Ulverston (Cumbria) who were found with shotgun wounds last year.
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns** - The following cases related to incidents in which a victim was shot:
 - A man who shot a walker in Edinburgh with an air rifle pleaded guilty to recklessly discharging an air rifle and recklessly discharging the weapon and having an air rifle without a firearms certificate.
 - A man who shot a teenager in Wakefield (West Yorkshire) with a gas-powered air rifle has been jailed for 9 months.
 - A teenager who shot a love rival in the face with an air pistol in Redditch (Worcestershire) has been sentenced to 2 years detention.
 - A man who shot a teenage girl in the leg with an air rifle at a campsite near Harlech (Gwynedd) was given a 50 week suspended jail sentence and ordered to do 250 hours unpaid work.
 - A Liverpool man who fired a BB gun at another man was jailed for 8 months after admitting possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, common assault and a bail offence.
 - A teenager who held a ball-bearing gun to the head of a schoolboy in Longton (Lancashire) and then shot a member of the public who intervened has been sent to a young offenders' institution for 18 months.
 - Two 16-year-olds who shot at people and property in Lincoln and Newark (Nottinghamshire) with an air pistol have admitted a number of offences including actual bodily harm, common assault and common damage and being in possession of an imitation firearm and were given 12-month referral orders and ordered to pay compensation; a 19-year-old who drove them and later fired the gun was sent to a young offenders' institution for 3 years.
- There were a number of convictions for robberies and attempted robberies in which the offender(s) was armed with an imitation firearm. The incidents occurred:
 - at **Shops** in Jarrow (Tyne & Wear) (a man has been jailed for five years), Lockwood (West Yorkshire) (a teenager has been detained for 3 years), Salford (another teenager was jailed for 5 years and 4 months), Bridgwater (Somerset) (a teenager has pleaded guilty to robbery and possession of an imitation firearm), Kettering (Northamptonshire) (two men have been jailed for 7 years), and Kirkheaton (West Yorkshire) (a teenager has been given a 4½ year sentence for robbing another teenager of £5 when armed with a ball-bearing gun)
 - at **Bookmakers** in north west London (a man with an airgun was responsible for a series of 12 raids and has been given a 10 year sentence)
 - in **Street** robberies in west Hull (two men armed with a starting pistol who have been jailed for 5 and 4 years), Bolton (Greater Manchester) (three teenagers have been jailed for 7 years or more for violent disorder and a fourth teenager given a 12-month community order after an attack in which one man was pistol-whipped and hit twice in the face when a BB

gun was fired), and Chippenham (Wiltshire) (a teenager has been jailed for 2½ years)

- There were convictions for men who pointed imitation guns or airguns at others and, in one case, himself.
 - A man who was shot by police after he fired a replica handgun and pointed it at police who came to his flat in Upper Holloway (north London) has admitted possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.
 - A man who pointed a ball-bearing gun at an 11-year-old in Chichester (West Sussex) has been sentenced to 3 years in jail.
 - A teenager who pointed a replica handgun at a couple in Bishop Auckland (County Durham) has been sent to a young offenders' institution for 8 months.
 - A man who threatened a teenager with an imitation gun in Benfleet (Essex) believing that the boy owed him money was jailed for 12 months for possession of an imitation gun.
 - A man who pointed a de-activated bolt-action rifle at a police officer who had gone to his home in Thurlow (Suffolk) was given a suspended 12-month prison sentence and ordered to pay £750 compensation.
 - A man who threatened a taxi driver with a blank-firing gun outside his house in Oldbury (West Midlands) has been sent to prison for 16 months.
 - A man who held an imitation handgun used for bird scaring to his girlfriend's head at their home in Mauchline (Ayrshire) was fined £300 after admitting a number of offences.
 - A man who threatened to shoot himself with an air pistol at his partner's mother's home in Havant (Hampshire) admitted possession of a firearm and was fined £100.
- A drunken man who sparked an armed police operation after waving an air rifle in Broomhill (Sheffield) has been ordered to serve a 12-month community sentence with 120 hours of unpaid work.
- A teenager who walked around Ulverston (Cumbria) with an air rifle pleaded guilty to possessing the weapon in public and buying ammunition - he must carry out six sessions of a youth rehabilitation order. A man spotted carrying an air weapon in South Shields (Tyne and Wear) was cautioned for being in possession of the weapon in a public place.
- A man has been jailed for 3½ years after an imitation pistol and drugs were found at his home in Ilford (east London). A man found in a car in Enfield (north London) with a prohibited air weapon has been given a 3-year sentence.
- A teenager from Grimsby (Lincolnshire) has been handed a 2-year ASBO after a string of convictions including trespassing with an imitation firearm.
- A man who stole items including an air rifle from a house in Waterfoot (Lancashire) was jailed for 39 months.
- **Stun Guns** - A man who used a stun gun on another at a nightclub in Inverness has been jailed for 16 months.
- There were more cases involving men caught in possession of stun guns, a number linked to drugs offences:
 - A man found with a stun gun and drugs at his home in Evesham (Worcestershire) pleaded guilty to possessing the weapon and the drugs and was fined £125 and given a 12-month community order with 150 hours unpaid work.
 - A teenager will serve a minimum of 9 months for possessing drugs with intent to supply, possessing a stun gun and assaulting a police officer in Bullbrook (Berkshire).
 - A man from Kenilworth (Warwickshire), one of a number convicted of drug offences, admitted possession of a stun gun and was jailed for 4 years.

- A Hartlepool man who armed himself with a stun gun was given a suspended 9 month prison sentence, 12 months probation supervision and 140 hours of unpaid work.
 - A man from Winthorpe (Lincolnshire) has admitted possession of prohibited weapons including a stun gun and pornography offences.
- There were two cases involving men caught trying to import stun guns. A man found with two stun guns and nine pepper sprays at Edinburgh Airport has been ordered to carry out 220 hours of community service. Another caught with two stun guns at Aberdeen Airport has admitted breaching the Customs and Excise Management Act and been ordered to carry out 240 hours of community service.

GUN INCIDENTS – MARCH 2010

ENGLAND

Manchester Evening News, 31 March 2010

Two teenagers have each been jailed after being found guilty of murdering a schoolboy who was shot dead outside a pub in **Stretford**, Greater Manchester, in May 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). Hiruy Zerihun, 18, who fired the gun was sentenced to 23 years and Njabulo Ndlovu, 19, for 21 years. The attack was bungled revenge for the murder of another teenager, a boyhood friend of Zerihun, who was shot dead in February 2008. Zerihun was also found guilty of possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence following an incident a week before the murder outside the same pub. Shadrach Phipps, 19, was found guilty of possessing a prohibited firearm and possessing ammunition without a certificate and Michael Egerton admitted handling the murder weapon. The car who drove the men to and from the murder scene in his taxi was cleared of murder and firearms offences. The murder weapon, a 9mm Tokarev pistol, has been fired in Britain on at least three previous occasions, outside a **London** pub in 1998, at a group of men in **Longsight**, Manchester, in 2008 and three months before the murder at a group of youths, also in **Longsight**. The pistol was found dumped in a garden in **Gorton** (*Manchester Evening News*, 1 April 2010).

London Daily News, 31 March 2010

Gary Waller ran a gun-conversion factory from his living room in **South Norwood**, south London. He turned **imitation** and **blank-firing handguns** into lethal weapons. He pleaded guilty to a string of firearms offences and was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. Other members of the gang were Darren Yaw Okupu who acted as a courier, Marvin Welch who stored the finished and partly finished firearms, Wesley Higgins and Adrian McNeish who acted as middlemen sourcing customers and Cadele Clarke bought weapons from Waller. McNeish and Welch pleaded guilty the other men were convicted after a trial. The gang, including Waller, were sentenced to a total of 43 years.

Liverpool Echo, 31 March 2010

Anthony Eccleston, 19, and a 17-year-old have been found guilty of firing a **shotgun** at a rival's leg in a "punishment-style" shooting in **Huyton**, Merseyside, in March 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). They were convicted of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and grievous bodily harm. It is thought they will receive between five and 10-year custody terms.

Liverpool Echo, 31 March 2010

Three men armed with a knife and a gun manhandled a young woman in her home in **Croxteth**, Liverpool. They filled up black bin bags with items including electronic equipment.

Lancashire Evening Post, 31 March 2010

Daryl Wade, 18, held a **ball-bearing gun** to the head of a schoolboy because he "spoke to his girlfriend". A member of the public who stepped in was shot in the arm in the incident in **Longton**, Lancashire. Wade was sent to a young offenders institute for 18 months for possessing of an imitation firearm with intent and a further eight months consecutive for assault occasioning actual bodily harm. He had pleaded guilty.

Kent Online, 31 March 2010

Three teenagers have been arrested after a 15-year-old boy was robbed and shot in the face with a **BB gun** in a street in **Ashford**, Kent. The boys were arrested on suspicion of robbery and released on bail.

Ilford Recorder, 31 March 2010

Shots were fired from a car in **Ilford**, east London, and two weeks earlier a gunman had fired a gun at a car tyre in **Seven Kings**.

Halesowen News, 31 March 2010

Alex Williams threatened a taxi driver with a **blank-firing gun** in a dispute over a fare outside his home in **Oldbury**, West Midlands. He was drunk at the time and had gone into his house to get the gun and loaded it before showing it to the driver who believed it was real. Williams admitted possessing the imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He was sent to prison for 16 months.

Daily Mirror, 31 March 2010

Helen Lawson fired both barrels of a **shotgun** at point-blank range at her husband after waking him up in bed at their home in **Wellow**, Isle of Wight, in January 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). She was found guilty of murder and will serve a minimum of 15 years in prison.

BBC, 31 March 2010

Two contract killers have been jailed for life for murdering a man who was shot outside his home in **Dagenham**, east London, October 2004 (see [Incidents](#)), and died nine months later. Douglas Johnson and David Austin lay in wait for their victim as he returned home. Johnson shot him in the back of the neck. Another man was convicted of perverting the course of justice. The motive for the killing has never been established and no one else has ever been charged.

BBC, 31 March 2010

A coroner has criticised police in Lincolnshire for "extraordinary" failings in the lead up to a man shooting his teenage step-daughter before killing himself. Elvis Cant was on police bail accused of assaulting and threatening to kill her at the time of the incident in **Potterhanworth**, Lincolnshire, where Cant had tracked her down in July 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). He had a **double barrelled shotgun** he had bought hours earlier and struggled with his step-daughter's natural father before shooting her in the leg and then missing her with a second shot. He was found dead an hour later in a nearby field with gunshot wounds. Officers had confiscated three shotguns from Cant but did not take his firearms certificate allowing him to buy the other gun. An open verdict was recorded on Cant because the coroner was not entirely clear how he came by his death. Lincolnshire Police offered an unreserved apology to the victim and her family.

BBC, 31 March 2010

Andrew Copland shot his ex-partner and their 4-year-old daughter at his home in **Aldershot**, Hampshire, in December 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) before killing himself an inquest heard. The weapon was a 1934 Beretta semi-automatic pistol. His ex-partner's new boyfriend said she had told him Copland was violent and had a gun in the loft. The coroner recorded that he had unlawfully killed the mother and child and then took his own life. Copland had found the gun in a skip whilst he was working as a builder in 1998 (*BBC*, 2 April 2010).

BBC, 31 March 2010

John Twomey, Glen Cameron, Peter Blake and Barry Hibberd have been found guilty of robbery and having a firearm with intent to commit robbery. The men robbed a cargo warehouse at **Heathrow Airport**, west London, in February 2004. The gang were armed with handguns. Sixteen staff members were tied up and threatened and the men managed to steal £1.75m. They will be sentenced later. Hibbard was found not guilty of 13 charges on unrelated firearms offences concerning a cache of weapons at a lock-up garage in **Uxbridge**. Twomey was sentenced to 20 years, Blake was jailed for life with a minimum term of 10 years and Cameron and Hibberd were sentenced to 15 years and 17 years and six months, respectively.

yourcanterbury.co.uk, 30 March 2010

Armed police arrested a man and a woman on suspicion of assault, possession of a firearm without a certificate and the cultivation of cannabis after an incident in **Chislet**, Kent. Another man was treated for head injuries.

Southern Daily Echo, 30 March 2010

David Collier hid a **pump action shotgun** and ammunition after police stopped a car driven by a known drug dealer in **St Mary's**, Southampton. The gun had been stolen in a burglary at the home of a gun club member. Collier thought the gun and ammunition were drugs and associated paraphernalia he had loaded in the car and hid them after the dealer told him to get rid of his stuff. He admitted being in possession of the shotgun and cartridges and was jailed for 12 months.

Mail, 30 March 2010

A man was ordered by a gang to hand over the keys of his wife's car which he was washing in **Battersea**, south west London. A gun was pointed to his head. The gang ran off taking the keys when passers-by arrived on the scene.

Lynn News, 30 March 2010

An inquest has heard how in December 2009 a man found his wife in a room at their home in **Shouldham Thorpe**, Norfolk, with devastating head injuries and his **shotgun** by her side. A coroner said that she had died from a head injury caused by a shotgun discharge and recorded a verdict of "suicide while suffering from a mental disorder".

The Argus, 30 March 2010

A man was arrested on the top deck of a bus on suspicion of possessing a firearm in a public place with intent to cause fear or alarm. A passenger raised the alarm as the bus passed through **Peacehaven**, East Sussex, and the driver was advised to continue the journey until police officers could reach the bus. When they got on and arrested the man they found a **BB gun** and an **air rifle**.

Uxbridge Gazette, 29 March 2010

A post office van driver was held at gunpoint during an armed raid in **Hayes**, west London. Two men stole bags and a box containing an unspecified amount of money.

This is Lancashire, 29 March 2010

A man has died from a **shotgun** wound to the head at a flat in **Breightmet**, Lancashire. A man was taken away from the scene but no arrests have been made. Police were unable to confirm whether the death was being treated as suspicious.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 29 March 2010

Youngsters playing near their homes in **Rawthorpe**, West Yorkshire, found a **pump-action shotgun**. The weapon was rusted and burnt, there was no handle and it looked sawn off. Police have taken it for forensic examination.

BBC, 29 March 2010

A gunman threatened staff at a supermarket in **Chilwell**, Nottinghamshire. No weapon has yet been recovered and no arrest has been made.

BBC, 29 March 2010

Ernest Wright has been jailed for the rest of his life for the murder of a man whom he shot in the neck with a **shotgun** in **Bradford** in March 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). He was also found guilty of attempting to murder the victim's partner. He had befriended the survivor's mother and had persuaded her to have her benefit payments paid into his bank account instead of her son's and in the days leading up to the shooting there was a series of confrontations between the three men. Wright had already served a long prison term for murder in 1971.

BBC, 29 March 2010

Three boys, aged 12 and 13, have been expelled from a school in **Birmingham** after they were caught on CCTV playing with a **BB gun** in the school.

BBC, 28 March 2010

Police are investigating after a firearm was discharged in **Hucknall**, Nottinghamshire. No-one was hurt in the incident.

Stoke Newington People, 27 March 2010

A road in **Stoke Newington**, north London, was closed off while police officers investigated reports of gunfire. A blogger reported seeing a boy running away limping and being chased by a gang of other boys, one carrying a handgun.

Liverpool Echo, 27 March 2010

A man and a woman were arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm and ammunition after raids on two houses in **Dovecot**, Merseyside, during which a handgun was found. Other people were arrested over drug offences.

The Journal, 27 March 2010

Neil Lock, one of a number of people convicted for their involvement with a chain of brothels all over the **North of England**, also pleaded guilty to possessing a **shotgun** without a certificate. He is currently serving a four year sentence.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 27 March 2010

A window was shattered by an **air weapon** pellet in **Lascelles Hall**, West Yorkshire.

Bolton News, 27 March 2010

Ian Shaw from **Farnworth**, Greater Manchester, has pleaded guilty to possessing an 8mm self-loading handgun and various ammunition, both bullets and cartridges. He also pleaded guilty to handling a stolen vehicle. The case was adjourned. The weapons were found at a house by Bolton's Organised Crime Unit (see [February 2010 Incidents](#)).

West Yorkshire Police, 26 March 2010

A loaded Uzi machine gun, bullets and **shotgun** cartridges were recovered by police from a house in **Holbeck**, Leeds. A man and a woman were arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm and ammunition without a certificate.

This is Gloucestershire, 26 March 2010

Sean Creed from **Minchinhampton**, Gloucestershire, has admitted three charges of possessing weaponry without a firearm certificate. He was caught with two .22 rifles in May 2009 (see [October 2009 Incidents](#)) without a certificate, 282 rounds of ammunition, including expanding rounds. Some of the ammunition was found in his car and the guns and the rest of the ammunition were found when his home was searched. He was given a suspended nine-month jail sentence.

Stourbridge News, 26 March 2010

Ben Goodwin, 18, has pleaded guilty to unlawful wounding and having a firearm. He fired an **air pistol** at a love rival during an incident in **Redditch**, Worcestershire, in December 2008. Two pellets were embedded in the face of his victim. Surgery was not possible and doctors were hoping the pellets would eventually work their way out. Goodwin was sentenced to two years detention.

Skegness Standard, 26 March 2010

Josef Klaczka has admitted three charges of possession of a prohibited weapon together with possession of extreme pornography and possession of counterfeit currency. The weapons included a **stun gun** found at his home in **Winthorpe**, Lincolnshire.

Birmingham Mail, 26 March 2010

Norman Fox from **Kenilworth**, Warwickshire, one of a number of men convicted of drugs offences, admitted possessing a **Taser stun gun**. He was jailed for four years.

BBC, 26 March 2010

A security guard was shot in the leg during a robbery in **Fulwood**, Lancashire. The victim was in a stable condition in hospital and his injuries are not life-threatening. The attack took place at a supermarket.

BBC, 26 March 2010

Four teenagers were arrested in **Chichester**, West Sussex, after a gun was fired at a building, damaging a window. There were all arrested on suspicion of possessing of a firearm and criminal damage.

Worcester News, 25 March 2010

Teachers at a school in **Blackminster**, Worcester, organised a stunt for a science project in which a teacher pretended to be shot dead. A clapperboard was used to simulate the sound of a gunshot. Many pupils have reported being horrified by the stunt.

West Yorkshire Police, 25 March 2010

A **shotgun** and ammunition were seized by police in the **Dewsbury** area of West Yorkshire during a co-ordinated day of action on burglary.

Southwark News, 25 March 2010

A 14-year-old from **Peckham**, south London, stashed a loaded Colt .45 self-loading pistol at his home. It was found when police raided in November 2009. He had been trusted by a gangland friend to keep the gun which has been fired in six incidents in **Camberwell**, **Plaistow**, **Gipsy Hill**, **Sutton**, **New Cross** and **West Norwood**. The boy admitted having the loaded pistol with intent to endanger life and was given a two-year intensive supervision and surveillance order.

Southend Standard, 25 March 2010

Armed police surrounded a house in **Southend**, Essex, after a woman reported she had been threatened with a gun outside her home. Calls were made for a woman to come out of the house and give herself up, and a woman was arrested.

Northern Echo, 25 March 2010

Christopher Williams and Robert Eccles have admitted a robbery which Williams planned when he was in jail. A gang armed with a hammer and a **Taser gun** grabbed four boxes of cash from security men at a cash point in **Yarm**, Teesside, in April 2008. A third man, Mark Campbell, admitted assisting an offender and was given a suspended eight-month prison sentence. Other members of the gang have not been caught.

Guardian, 25 March 2010

An inquest jury has recorded a verdict of unlawful killing against officers from Greater Manchester Police following the death of PC Ian Terry who was shot during a firearms training exercise in **Newton Heath** in June 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). A **shotgun** which was supposed to be used to blow out car tyres was pointed at PC Terry and fired. Officers were told specifically to keep shotguns aimed downwards at all times but these instructions were routinely flouted. A decision not to bring charges over the fatal shooting is to be re-examined by prosecutors (*BBC*, 26 March 2010).

Guardian, 25 March 2010

A woman was found dead in a flat above the post office she owned with her husband in **Melsonby**, North Yorkshire. She died from head injuries and is believed to have been bludgeoned. Her husband has told police that he was in the post office when a man appeared from the flat carrying a gun and told him "We've got your wife". The man escaped with money. The post office was also robbed in March 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) by two men armed with an imitation gun which was discarded at the scene.

Gazette & Herald, 25 March 2010

A teenager charged with robbery and possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent to commit the offence has pleaded guilty. Sam Champion was involved when a 17-year-old was dragged into an alleyway in **Chippenham**, Wiltshire, and forced to hand over his phone and wallet in October 2009 (see [December 2009 Incidents](#)). Champion has been jailed for two and a half years. A youth and another man were also arrested but have not been charged with any offences.

Gazette & Herald, 25 March 2010

A woman was shot in the leg with a **BB gun** by a teenager, believed to be about 14, as she was putting her young child into a car seat outside a shop in **Chippenham**, Wiltshire. The shot was fired from the back seat of a car.

BBC, 25 March 2010

Two brothers, Brett and Jordan Francis, must each serve a minimum of 28 years in prison for the murder of a man who was shot dead at his home in **Oldham**, Greater Manchester, in September 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). It is believed the shooting resulted from a dispute over a drugs debt.

BBC, 25 March 2010

Twelve people were arrested during police drug raids in **Derby**, one of possessing a firearm.

Wandsworth Guardian, 24 March 2010

Staff and customers at a pub in **Brixton**, south London, were robbed by four men armed with a gun and a machete. The gang stole a quantity of cash.

Telegraph, 24 March 2010

A man was dragged from a bus by firearms officers after a man onboard pulled out a suspected gun. The incident took place near **Victoria Station**, central London. A witness described the man as appearing drunk and stumbling (*BBC*, 24 March 2010).

The Press, 24 March 2010

A woman was taken to hospital after she was shot with an **airgun** in a street in **York**. A pellet struck her in the head. A 15-year-old has been arrested and bailed over the incident (*The Press*, 3 April 2010).

Lancashire Telegraph, 24 March 2010

Peter Johnson stole items, including an **air rifle** and a mountain bike, from a family's porch and shed in **Waterfoot**, Lancashire, after taking a cocktail of drink and drugs. He was seen carrying a bag, with a gun over his shoulders. The police found him slumped over the handlebars of a bike. Johnson, who had only recently been released from prison was jailed for 39 months.

Hereford Times, 24 March 2010

A man was injured in a street in **Kington**, Herefordshire, when he was hit with an **airgun** pellet. He went to hospital where the pellet was removed from his hand.

Express & Star, 24 March 2010

A loaded Mac 10 machine pistol was found at a home in **Blakenhall**, Wolverhampton, in one of a number of raids in the West Midlands. A man and a woman were arrested in Blakenhall.

Evening Star, 24 March 2010

Robert Franks-Jones has admitted possessing an **imitation firearm**, a deactivated bolt-action rifle, with intent to cause fear of violence during an incident in December 2009 in which he pointed the gun at a police officer. Officers had gone to his home in **Thurlow**, Suffolk, after receiving a call from his mother who claimed he had grabbed her round the throat. Franks-Jones was given a 12 month prison sentence suspended for two years and ordered to pay £750 compensation and £250 costs.

Daily Mirror, 24 March 2010

A security officer at **Belmarsh** prison, south east London, was arrested after an automatic firearm was found at his home. He was released on bail and suspended from duty.

BBC, 24 March 2010

A man was shot in the leg in the **Top Valley** area of Nottingham. He was in a stable condition in hospital where he had received treatment for his wounds. In a second incident guns were fired from cars in the **New Basford** area, although no-one is thought to have been injured. Two men arrested on suspicion of firearms offences in connection with the second incident were released on bail (*BBC*, 27 March 2010).

This is the West Country, 23 March 2010

A father has told how a man aimed a **shotgun** at him when he stopped at the roadside in **Keenthorpe**, Somerset, so that his stepchildren could pick some daffodils. A man wielding a shotgun was "shouting and screaming" and tried to grab the flowers from his stepdaughter. As they drove to a nearby pub to wait for the police they believe they were shot at. A man was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and was released on bail.

The Sentinel, 23 March 2010

Three men armed with a handgun burst into the offices of a cash-and-carry in **Hanley**, Staffordshire, and tied up two workers before escaping with a "quantity of cash".

Ham & High, 23 March 2010

A 17-year-old pupil has been arrested on suspicion of possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause harassment alarm or distress after pointing a **toy gun** at pupils outside the gate of a school in **Camden**, north London. The gun was a prop taken from a drama department. He was released without charge but has been suspended by the school.

Evening Telegraph (Peterborough), 23 March 2010

A man has appeared in court charged with two counts of robbery and one of dangerous driving following two robberies. In the first in **Cambridge** a man approached a woman and demanded she hand over her car keys, pushing an object she believed to be a gun against her hip. The second incident occurred at a bank in **Peterborough** where a man brandishing what staff believed was an **imitation gun** demanded money. He stole £5000. Eduardo Coelho has pleaded guilty and will be sentenced next month (*Evening Telegraph* (Peterborough), 26 March 2010).

Evening Standard, 23 March 2010

A woman has been shot on the doorstep of her home in **Clapton**, east London. She was found with fatal injuries and pronounced dead at the scene. It has been suggested that the murder was a domestic incident that got out of hand and that the weapon was a **shotgun** (*Hackney Post*, 25 March 2010).

Birmingham Mail, 23 March 2010

Majid Khan posted a picture of himself pointing an automatic pistol on Facebook. It was spotted by a community crime-fighter who alerted the police. When they searched his bedroom in **Handsworth**, Birmingham, in November 2009 they found an **imitation pistol**, illegally converted to fire 8mm bullets. When they looked at his computer they discovered "he had an unhealthy interest in firearms". He has been sentenced to five years in jail.

BBC, 23 March 2010

A couple were threatened by four masked men armed with **shotguns** who broke into their house in **Caddington**, Bedfordshire. The gang took money and two **shotguns** from the couple.

The Argus, 23 March 2010

Two men stole about £17,000 from security guards delivering money to a cashpoint in **Chichester**, West Sussex. Two men were later arrested in Worthing and charged with robbery, using a prohibited weapon during the raid and possession of a second gun. Police recovered the cash and seized two handguns which had been decommissioned and would not have been capable of firing.

Witney Gazette, 22 March 2010

Mark Walker of **Banbury**, Oxfordshire, admitted failing to comply with a condition of a **shotgun** certificate by failing to notify a change in address. He was given a 12-month conditional discharge and told to pay £70 costs.

North-West Evening Mail, 22 March 2010

A 16-year-old who was seen carrying an **air rifle** around **Ulverston**, Cumbria, and buying pellets from a shop went to the town's canal and fired the gun at a tin can. He has pleaded guilty to possessing the weapon in public and buying ammunition. He had used birthday money to buy the gun for £230. He has been handed back the weapon so that it can be sold back to the shop where it was bought. The magistrate ordered the destruction of the pellets. The boy must carry out six sessions of a youth rehabilitation order and had to pay £85 costs.

Kent Online, 22 March 2010

Two men armed with a knife and a gun demanded cash from staff at a supermarket in **Westerham**, Kent.

Kent Online, 22 March 2010

A former bomb disposal expert accused of attempting to murder his wife and her son in a car explosion in **Vigo**, Kent, also faces a charge of possessing 95 rounds of 5.56mm rifle bullets.

Get Bracknell, 22 March 2010

A 17-year-old has been jailed for possessing cocaine and heroin with intent to supply, possessing a **stun gun** and assaulting a police officer. He was arrested following a drugs raid in **Bullbrook**, Berkshire, in November 2009. He will serve a minimum of nine months.

Evening Chronicle, 22 March 2010

Police who called at the **North Tyneside** home of David Moore about a possible offence in relation to an e-mail he had sent, found a gun and ammunition which he said he had bought as props while studying media and animation. The gun had been drilled through to convert it from only being able to fire blanks. The police also unearthed 50 rounds of .38 ammunition, a sword and a BB gun. He admitted having the weapon and bullets and converting the gun and received a five year sentence.

Enfield Independent, 22 March 2010

Joseph Morrison and Marvin Jacobs have both been found guilty of possession of a firearm, kidnap, blackmail, actual bodily harm and aggravated burglary and each sentenced to 16 years. They disguised themselves as postmen and forced entry into people's houses. In one incident in **Enfield**, north London, they used a **stun gun** on a man. When they fled they left behind a number of items including a **shotgun**.

Croydon Guardian, 22 March 2010

A man has been shot dead on an estate in **Gipsy Hill**, south London. The cause of death was a **shotgun** wound to the torso.

Cotswold Journal, 22 March 2010

A man from **Winchcombe**, Gloucestershire, faces a total of 11 charges of possessing firearm and ammunition without holding a firearms certificate or having Government permission. Police are said to have found three guns of 9mm, .308 and 7.64 calibre at his home. Christopher Hance has already admitted possession of a 9mm cartridge and a 12 gauge shotgun slug without having a firearms certificate.

BBC, 22 March 2010

A man was shot in the chest with a **ball-bearing gun** when two men went into a bookmakers in **Middleton**, Greater Manchester. The offenders fled empty-handed. The victim was taken to hospital to have the pellets removed and was later released.

This is Lancashire, 20 March 2010

Members of a teenage gang have been given long sentences for their involvement in an attack on a group of men in **Bolton**, Greater Manchester, in April 2009. An off-duty firearms officer was pistol-whipped with a **ball-bearing gun** and hit twice in the face when the gun was fired. Two of the gang had also been involved in robberies in June and July. A 17-year-old was sentenced to eight years and two months after pleading guilty to violent disorder, possessing a firearm and three counts of aggravated burglary. Two boys, aged 17 and 16, were given seven year sentences for violent disorder and two counts of aggravated burglary. Another 17-year-old was given a 12-month community order after pleading guilty to violent disorder.

Braintree and Witham Times, 20 March 2010

Residents on an estate in **Witham**, Essex, are calling for a stronger police presence following vandalism and verbal abuse including, according to one resident, a lot of problems with children using **BB guns**.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 19 March 2010

Andrew Heeley shot a teenager with an airgun after snowballs were thrown at his house in **Wakefield**, West Yorkshire, in December 2009. He pleaded guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm but denied knowing the gun was loaded. He had been drinking just prior to the incident. Four or five shots were fired from his **gas-powered air rifle**, but he said he was never aiming to hit the 16-year-old victim who had two pellets lodged in his forehead. Heeley owned four airguns and did target practice in his garden. He has been jailed for nine months.

The Sentinel, 19 March 2010

A team of detectives who used to CCTV to jail two men following an armed robbery in **Newcastle**, Staffordshire, in August 2008 have been commended. The two men were captured just days after using an **imitation firearm** to rob an antique shop.

Oxford Mail, 19 March 2010

An **air rifle** was among a haul of 76 weapons confiscated by police during a raid at a travellers' site in **East Challow**, Oxfordshire. Two men were arrested in connection with an assault.

Luton Today, 19 March 2010

An **imitation pump-action shotgun** and crack cocaine were seized when police raided a house in **Luton**, Bedfordshire. Two men, one a teenager, have been arrested.

Epsom Guardian, 19 March 2010

Drivers on the A309 close to the **Hook Junction** in Surrey were shot at with an **air rifle**. The incidents took place when cars were driving through a wooded area. The police said they had received "many" reports of vehicles being damaged, most of them with smashed windows and windscreens.

Birmingham Mail, 19 March 2010

Ricardo Cousins, 20, has been found guilty of aggravated burglary and possessing a firearm with intent. He was one of four men who went to a house in **Handsworth**, Birmingham, in September 2009 and forced a man to hand over a gold bracelet. They also made off with cash and a car.

BBC, 19 March 2010

A man was arrested in his vehicle in **Nottingham** and charged with two counts of possessing class A drugs with intent to supply, possession of cannabis and possessing a firearm and ammunition without a certificate.

Tameside Advertiser, 18 March 2010

Two victims were handcuffed during a robbery at a sorting office in **Droylsden**, Greater Manchester. Three men, possibly armed with a **shotgun** and a knife, stole a large amount of registered items from the back of a van and left.

Southern Daily Echo, 18 March 2010

A man is believed to have shot himself in the garden of his cottage in **Fawley**, Hampshire. His body was found by his son. The police confirmed that he died as a result of head injuries caused by a **shotgun** blast and his death was not being treated as suspicious.

Local Guardian, 18 March 2010

Children were threatened at gunpoint during a robbery at a home in **Norbury**, south London, in February. Five men threatened to shoot the children unless they were given cash and jewellery. The home may have been targeted to steal a dowry which was part of the owner's son's recent wedding.

Jarrow & Hebburn Gazette, 18 March 2010

A man spotted carrying an **air weapon** in **South Shields**, Tyne and Wear, was arrested and cautioned for being in possession of the weapon in a public place. He told officers he was using it to fire at tin cans for target practice.

Islington Gazette, 18 March 2010

Richard Hiorns was shot by armed police after he told them he would shoot them in the head. He pointed a **replica Glock handgun** from inside his flat in **Upper Holloway**, north London, in October 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). Six shots were fired from the blank-firing weapon. He had called police demanding to be sectioned under the Mental Health Act. Police found five imitation firearms and a silver revolver during a search of the flat. He admitted possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He will be sentenced in April.

Haverhill Weekly News, 18 March 2010

A police officer based in **Haverhill**, Suffolk, has received a commendation after disarming a man during a domestic dispute. A man who had been holding a long-barrelled rifle was arrested.

Ham & High, 18 March 2010

A man has carried out a series of gunpoint muggings in **Belsize Park** and **Hampstead**, north London. He confronted a couple in a lift and stole items of personal property from their flat. In a second attack he demanded that a woman hand over money, and then 20 minutes later he is believed to have pulled out a gun and demanded money from another woman.

Fulham & Hammersmith Chronicle, 18 March 2010

A loaded revolver was found hidden in a laundry basket during a raid on a barber shop in **Shepherd's Bush**, west London. Two men were arrested.

BBC, 18 March 2010

Six men and two women have been arrested by Lancashire Police following a series of raids in **Walton-le-Dale**, **Deepdale**, **Ingol** and **Fulwood**. Firearms, ammunition and cash were seized during the raids. One of the men, a police officer thought to be from Walton-le-Dale, has been charged with a series of offences including three counts of possession of a firearm and possession of ammunition (*Lancashire Evening Post*, 19 March 2010).

The Argus, 18 March 2010

A man was detained after armed police went to a street in **Saltdean**, East Sussex, after receiving reports of a man brandishing a gun. No gun was found and investigations were continuing.

Westmorland Gazette, 17 March 2010

A coroner has recorded a verdict of suicide after a retired farmer shot himself with a **shotgun** at his home near **Ulverston**, Cumbria, in September 2009. The death was initially treated as suspicious because his step-son, with whom he lived, had moved the body and the gun and cleaned up the blood. The coroner warned against clearing up after someone's death.

Scunthorpe Telegraph, 17 March 2010

Two men armed with a gun raided the post office in **Owston Ferry**, Humberside. They smashed a partition screen before stealing a large amount of cash from behind the counter. Two men have been appeared in court charged in connection with this robbery and two others which took place month, one on another post office in **Hensall**, North Yorkshire (see below) and one on a bookmakers in **Thorne**, South Yorkshire (*BBC*, 27 March 2010). They have also been charged with possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and possessing a **sawn-off shotgun** (*Scunthorpe Telegraph*, 27 March 2010).

The News (Portsmouth), 17 March 2010

Carl Cox hid a loaded **air pistol** underneath his jumper after his partner had asked him to move out and then drank a full bottle of whisky at his partner's mother's home in **Havant**, Hampshire. He then brandished the gun, pointed it at his temple and said he wanted to 'end it all'. The gun was wrestled off him but fired during the struggle. After the incident he handed himself in to the police. He admitted possession of a firearm and was ordered to pay a £100 fine, costs and victim surcharge. The gun is to be destroyed.

Get Surrey, 17 March 2010

A man who described himself as a "gun nut" has admitted two offences of unlawful possession of ammunition. Police found two antique pistols and rounds of ammunition at the house of Robert Storey in **Windlesham**, Surrey, in September 2009. The pistols were part of a collection he inherited from his late father and mother and he thought they were deactivated, which they were not. Charges relating to them have been left to lie on file. He was fined a total of £2000 and ordered to pay £1000 costs.

Evening Chronicle, 17 March 2010

Two men armed with a **sawn-off shotgun** and a machete set out to threaten a rival but one of them shot the other inadvertently during the incident in **South Moor**, County Durham, in June 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). Raymond Hetherington, who fired the shot, had already been jailed for nine-and-a-half year for his role (see [January 2010 Incidents](#)). Brian Sutton, who was riddled with shotgun pellets, was sentenced to two years in jail after pleading guilty to violent disorder and possessing an offensive weapon.

Echo, 17 March 2010

Benjamin McMahon got off a train at **Benfleet**, Essex, and followed a 15-year-old boy along the platform before threatening him with a gun and demanding he claimed was owed to him. However, it was the wrong boy. He has been jailed for 12 months for possession of an **imitation gun**.

Birmingham Mail, 17 March 2010

Tobias Rowe has been convicted of the attempted murder of a man who was shot in a pub during race riots in **Handsworth**, Birmingham, in October 2005 (see [Incidents](#)). He shot his victim in the right buttock. He was also found guilty of rioting, conspiracy to rob, two charges of possessing a firearm and possessing ammunition. Police caught him and found a loaded gun under a mattress when they raided a flat in the centre of Birmingham where Rowe was celebrating his birthday last year.

West Yorkshire Police, 16 March 2010

Omar Shah has been sentenced to 13 years in prison following a shooting at a nightclub in the centre of **Bradford** in November 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). After being ejected from the club he returned with a **double barrelled shotgun** and fired it towards bar staff. Three members of the public were injured. He was convicted of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, GBH and two counts of ABH.

Manchester Evening News, 16 March 2010

Armed police swooped on a house in **Moss Side**, Manchester, after a tip-off that a man had been seen with a firearm in nearby **Hulme**. Two men were arrested.

Bolton News, 16 March 2010

A car windscreen was shattered by a bullet as two groups of men clashed in **Great Lever**, Greater Manchester. Police found a bullet casing, believed to be from a handgun. Nine men were being questioned and officers were dispatched to search their homes for further evidence of firearms.

BBC, 16 March 2010

A man was seriously hurt when he dropped a **shotgun** at a farm in **Combe Martin**, Devon. He was injured in the arm and has undergone surgery. Armed police were automatically dispatched as they are to any report of a firearm incident.

BBC, 16 March 2010

Two men threatened the cashier at a service station shop in **Andover**, Hampshire, with a gun and an iron bar and stole £100. They escaped in a car driven by a third man.

Liverpool Echo, 15 March 2010

Three men armed with a **shotgun** and knives burst into a pub in **Stoneycroft**, Liverpool, and forced customers to lie on the floor. They stole money from the till, said to be several hundreds of pounds. They escaped in a car which they stole from a taxi driver.

Evening Star, 15 March 2010

The window of a carriage was shattered as a train approached **Stowmarket**, Suffolk. Passengers were showered with broken glass and left frightened and shocked. It is suspected that an **airgun** was used, and the conductor saw people in a field with rifles.

Evening Chronicle, 15 March 2010

Philip Curry and Stephen Moat have admitted a number of robberies and burglaries across Tyneside. In one of the raids on a store in **Benton** in September 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) staff were threatened with a **shotgun** and machete.

Enfield Independent, 15 March 2010

Jonathan Lisumbu, 18, stashed cash and a pistol behind a toilet at his flat in **Edmonton**, north London. He had been part of a gang of four who broke into a house in Edmonton in August 2009 and stole £9000 and a gold chain. Police found the stolen goods and a **replica pistol** converted into a working firearm. Forensic examination showed that the gun had been fired. Lisumbu pleaded guilty to handling stolen goods, and had earlier been found guilty of possession of a firearm and possession of ammunition without a firearms certificate. He was sentenced to five years for possession of the gun, two years for possession of ammunition and six months for handling stolen goods, the sentences to be served concurrently. Three other teenagers pleaded guilty to burglary or handling stolen goods.

East Anglian Daily Times, 15 March 2010

A shopkeeper had to undergo emergency surgery after he was shot in the face with a **BB gun** when three men raided a shop in **Ipswich**. The men demanded money and eventually stole the till. Around £800 was stolen along with the till.

Daily Mirror, 15 March 2010

Reporters investigating a family in **Crawley**, West Sussex, who are alleged to have subjected fellow residents to 15 years of torment, were greeted by the crack of an **air rifle**.

BBC, 15 March 2010

Four men have been charged in connection with a fight at a nightclub in **Loughton**, Essex, in January 2009 during which one man was shot in the hand.

BBC, 15 March 2010

Two men threatened staff at a store in **Ludwell**, Dorset, with a gun before escaping on foot with cash. The weapon was described as a handgun (*Salisbury Journal*, 15 March 2010).

BBC, 14 March 2010

Three raiders burst into a shop in **Widnes**, Cheshire, armed with a knife and gun. The previous evening three men armed with a **shotgun** robbed a store in **Mossley Hill**, Merseyside. In both incidents cash and cigarettes were taken. The gun used in the **Widnes** raid was later reported to be a type of **shotgun** (*Liverpool Echo*, 15 March 2010).

Telegraph & Argus, 13 March 2010

Three aggravated burglaries took place at homes in the **Heaton** area of Bradford during February. In one the robbers are understood to have brandished a **sawn-off shotgun**, hitting a woman over the head with it before stealing jewellery.

Northern Echo, 13 March 2010

An **air rifle** was recovered at an address in **Grangetown**, Teesside, where police arrested three men on suspicion of burglary at an industrial site in Redcar.

Northern Echo, 13 March 2010

James Mosley, 19, was drunk when he waved an imitation handgun from a car window at a couple walking in a street in **Bishop Auckland**, County Durham, in August 2009. Mosley, a former soldier, was arrested shortly afterwards and the firearm was found to be a novelty lighter, an exact **replica 9mm Beretta handgun** which he had bought in Turkey. He was sent to a young offenders' institution for eight months. The judge ordered the forfeiture and destruction of the imitation handgun.

The News (Portsmouth), 12 March 2010

Sam Hutton has pleaded guilty to pointing a **gas-powered ball bearing gun** at an 11-year-old and his friends as they were playing together in **Chichester**, West Sussex. He was in a car at the time of the incident in January 2009. He was sentenced to three years in jail.

Lancashire Telegraph, 12 March 2010

A man was in a critical condition following an incident with a bolt gun at a butchers in **Chipping**, Lancashire. He was airlifted to hospital with life-threatening injuries. The incident is not being treated as suspicious.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 12 March 2010

Anthony Scott, 18, has been given a four-and-a-half year sentence after being found guilty of robbing another teenager of £5 in **Kirkheaton**, West Yorkshire, in December 2009. He was armed with a realistic-looking black **ball bearing handgun** when he demanded money from his victim. It was not certain whether or not a pellet had been discharged but the victim had to be treated in hospital for an injury to his nose.

Hartlepool Mail, 12 March 2010

A man from **Hartlepool** who armed himself with a **taser stun gun** after hearing rumours that he was going to be burgled has admitted possession of a firearm. Keith Turner was given a nine-month prison sentence, suspended for 18 months, and 12 months probation supervision and 140 hours of unpaid work.

Evening Telegraph (Northamptonshire), 12 March 2010

John-Paul Owen and Darren Start have each been jailed for seven years following an attempted robbery on a store in **Kettering**, Northamptonshire, in September 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). Shop staff were terrified with a samurai sword and an **imitation firearm** and one of them was hit three times with the gun butt, fracturing his ribs. Owen admitted robbery and Start was convicted of robbery, possession of an imitation firearm and an offensive weapon.

Chelmsford Weekly News, 12 March 2010

A man entered a store in **Chelmsford**, Essex, armed with a gun and forced staff to hand over cash from the tills. An undisclosed three figure sum was taken.

BBC, 12 March 2010

A 14-year-old boy has died at an address in **Merstham**, Surrey. He is believed to have been shot with a firearm. The occupants of the home are thought to be registered firearm keepers. The police are not looking for anyone in connection with the incident. It appears that the boy shot himself with a **shotgun** with a licensed firearm registered to his father (*Telegraph*, 13 March 2010).

North-West Evening Mail, 11 March 2010

A man from **Barrow**, Cumbria, has appeared in court after allegedly threatening another man with a gun. He was arrested on suspicion of criminal damage and possessing a firearm with intent to cause two others to believe that unlawful would be used against them.

Liverpool Echo, 11 March 2010

Stephen Coulter, Lee Coulter and Jason Sunderland have all been convicted of the murder of a man who was shot in **Kirkdale**, Liverpool, Merseyside, in June 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). They were all jailed for life with a minimum of 32 years. Wesley Porter who supplied the murder weapon was also found guilty of murder and will serve at least 27 years.

Evesham Journal, 11 March 2010

Brendan Ash was found with a **stun gun** and drugs when police searched his home in **Evesham**, Worcestershire, in January 2010. He admitted buying the gun but said he could not remember why. He pleaded guilty to possession of class A and B drugs as well as a weapon. He was fined a total of £125, given a 12-month community order with 150 hours unpaid work and ordered to pay costs.

BBC, 11 March 2010

A man has pleaded guilty to the murder of a man who was shot in the head in **Bensham**, Tyneside, in August 1999. Stephen Hardy will be sentenced after the trial of another man who has been charged with conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm.

Welwyn & Hatfield Times, 10 March 2010

A man had his laptop stolen as he was walking in a street in **Hatfield**, Hertfordshire. He gave it up after seeing "something resembling a gun". It is believed it was an **imitation gun**. A teenager has been arrested.

The Star, 10 March 2010

David Wilson, 20, was drunk when he sparked an armed police operation after being spotted topless in **Broomhill**, Sheffield, waving an **air rifle** at neighbouring houses and firing the gun. He pleaded guilty to threatening unlawful violence. He was ordered to serve a 12-month community sentence with 120 hours of unpaid work.

Liverpool Daily Post, 10 March 2010

Two robbers burst into a travel agents' in **Mossley Hill**, south Liverpool, brandishing a handgun. They ordered some of the staff to open the safe for them and stole foreign currency and traveller's cheques.

Kent Online, 10 March 2010

A woman has been shot in the legs in **Eastchurch**, Kent. There is speculation that the victim opened the door to a money lender and when she saw he had a **shotgun** she shut the door but he blasted a hole through it. A man has been charged with attempted murder and possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence (*BBC*, 16 March 2010). Surgeons removed 80 shotgun pellets from the victim's legs following the attack (*Kent Online*, 18 March 2010).

Hull Daily Mail, 10 March 2010

Damian Morley and Brian Genter attacked a man then had met at a house party and robbed him taking his ring, wallet and phone. During the street robbery in west **Hull** they held him up with a **black starting pistol**, which they fired four times and put to their victim's head, before hitting and kicking him. A month previously the pair had taken photographs of themselves posing as gangsters with the gun and a knife. Morley was jailed for five years and Genter for four years after they both pleaded guilty to robbery.

Hackney Gazette, 10 March 2010

A man was shot in the shoulder in a street in **Dalston**, north east London. His condition is described as non-life threatening.

Burton Mail, 10 March 2010

A man denies possessing a firearm in a public place and possessing a firearm with a shortened barrel without a certificate. He is on trial following an incident in **Burton-on-Trent**, Staffordshire, in September 2008 when a **sawn-off shotgun** was wielded during a fracas. The defendant was traced after DNA was found on the weapon, which was abandoned in a street. It had been loaded with two live cartridges. The trial continues.

The Argus, 10 March 2010

Parents are reported to be furious over the sale of "City Police" **replica BB guns** to primary school children for £1. The guns, which fire plastic ball-bearings, on sale at a Poundland store in **Brighton**. A spokeswoman said that the item would be on sale in all Poundland stores.

This is the West Country, 9 March 2010

Nathan Addicott, 19, has pleaded guilty to robbery and possession of an imitation firearm. He and his co-assailant grabbed **BB guns** and balaclavas and decided to rob a store in **Bridgwater**, Somerset, in January 2010. The men fled with more than £500 in cash and cigarettes. Addicott also admitted other charges and will be sentenced next month. A second person arrested in connection with the robbery has been released without charge.

This is South Devon, 9 March 2010

Police seized drugs and an **air rifle** during a raid on a property in **Teignmouth**, Devon. A man and a woman were arrested.

Tameside Advertiser, 9 March 2010

A petrol station cashier had an **air pistol** held to his head during a robbery in **Ashton-under-Lyne**, Greater Manchester. Three men stole cash, cigarettes and personal items. Two teenagers were arrested and charged with robbery and possession of a firearm. A third suspect was arrested later.

Richmond & Twickenham Times, 9 March 2010

A woman and two young children were threatened with a knife and what was believed to be a pistol whilst they were walking along an alleyway in **Chiswick**, west London. They were approached by two men who demanded money and a mobile phone.

Oxford Mail, 9 March 2010

A woman has been detained under the Mental Health Act after she barricaded herself inside a property in **Wardington**, Oxfordshire, and threatened to take her own life. It is thought the woman had a gun.

Evening Standard, 9 March 2010

Paul Blake has admitted drugs, firearms and child neglect charges. After he was arrested in **Ilford**, east London, in August 2009, police searched his home and discovered cannabis and an **imitation pistol** with blank cartridges under the mattress of his baby daughter's cot. He has been jailed for three and a half years.

BBC, 9 March 2010

Shots were fired at a house in **Croxteth**, Merseyside. Three children were in the property at the time. It is thought that two men seen nearby on motorbikes may be involved.

BBC, 9 March 2010

Three men have each been jailed for 10 years after they admitted possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and conspiracy to rob. Aaron Peters, 19, Dominic Wooliff, 19, and Jericho Annis admitted going to the house of a drug dealer in **Barton**, Oxford, with a **shotgun** to steal drugs and money in April 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). The man was left with a graze and burn marks on his neck when the gun went off as he slammed the door shut on them.

BBC, 9 March 2010

A man has been left with **shotgun** wounds to his chest and arm after a gunman walked into a pub in **Hazel Grove**, Greater Manchester. He was taken to hospital where he remained in a stable, but not life-threatening condition. The gunman fled in a car.

BBC, 9 March 2010

Two people have been found dead with gunshot wounds at a flat in **Cheshunt**, Hertfordshire. A handgun was recovered from the scene. The police were not looking for anyone else in relation to the incident. It is understood that the man shot his ex-partner before killing himself (*Telegraph*, 9 March 2010).

This is Bath, 8 March 2010

Two female paramedics allegedly had a gun pulled on them at a home in **Bath** after they received an emergency call reporting that a man had suffered an overdose. A man and a woman were arrested and police retrieved a number of weapons from the flat.

Telegraph & Argus, 8 March 2010

Robbers armed with guns raided a jewellers shop in **Bradford**. They had used a car to ram the shop when it opened.

Tameside Advertiser, 8 March 2010

Staff were threatened by two men, one armed with a handgun, at a betting shop in **Stalybridge**, Cheshire. One of the men grabbed cash and the pair ran off.

Harrow Times, 8 March 2010

Yannis Young was responsible for a series of raids on bookmakers in north west London between July 2007 and September 2009. He threatened to kill workers if they did not hand over their takings, as he brandished an imitation handgun, sometimes wrapped in a cloth or a sock. His accomplices stood guard at the door. He was arrested the day after robbing two premises in **Stanmore** and **Edgware**. An **airgun** was seized at his home. The other raids took place in **Cricklewood** (2), **Harlesden** (4), **Ealing**, **Ickenham**, **Eastcote** and **East Acton**. He has been jailed for ten years. He pleaded guilty to 12 counts of armed robbery and possession of a firearm with intent to commit indictable offences and (*Uxbridge Gazette*, 8 March 2010).

BBC, 8 March 2010

Stun guns, cocaine, stolen vehicles and cash were seized by police in raids on **Merseyside**. Eleven people have been charged with conspiracy to supply drugs.

This is Local London, 6 March 2010

Drugs and weapons including a **ball-bearing gun**, **air weapon** and firearms ammunition were found during a series of police raids by Essex Police in **Epping Forest**, **Harlow** and **Brentwood**. Eleven suspects were arrested.

This is Grimsby, 6 March 2010

Michael Davies, 16, from **Grimsby**, Lincolnshire, has been handed a two year anti-social behaviour order after a string of convictions which include trespassing with an **imitation firearm**.

The Press, 6 March 2010

Two men brandishing **sawn-off shotguns** threatened to shoot a customer at a post office in **Hensall**, North Yorkshire. They demanded the contents of the safe from the postmaster. Two men have appeared in court in connection with this and other robberies (see above).

Liverpool Echo, 6 March 2010

Robert White from **Anfield**, Liverpool, fired a **BB gun** from "point-blank range" at another man because of a grudge over a woman. He admitted possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, common assault and a bail offence. He was jailed for eight months.

BBC, 6 March 2010

A man was seriously injured in a shooting in **Stepney**, east London. He was in a stable condition in hospital. Another man suffered gunshot wounds. He and two others have been arrested in connection with the shooting (*BBC*, 7 March 2010).

The Argus, 6 March 2010

A landlord waved his licensed **shotgun** from his bedroom window when he caught a pair of burglars at his pub in **Barcombe**, East Sussex. He told the men not to move, but when the police could not get to the scene quickly the men drove off. The landlord had returned the gun in its cabinet.

The Sentinel, 5 March 2010

A man threatened two women at a store in **Hartshill**, Stoke-on-Trent, and stole more than £2000. He brandished a plastic bag believed to contain a handgun.

Romford Recorder, 5 March 2010

A man escaped with £12,000 from a travel agents in **Upminster**, east London, after waving a gun at two members of staff.

Lincolnshire Echo, 5 March 2010

Two 16-year-olds shot at people and property in **Lincoln** and Newark, Nottinghamshire, with an **air pistol**. During the spree in November 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) they fired at four people, windows, a car and a bus. Car windows were shattered. The pair have pleaded guilty to two counts of actual bodily harm, two counts of common assault, six counts of criminal damage and being in possession of an imitation firearm. Both teenagers were given 12-month referral orders and ordered to pay £300 compensation and contribute £85 towards prosecution costs. At the time of the incidents they were being driven around by Christopher Patterson, 19, who has been locked up for three years in a young offenders' institute (*Lincolnshire Echo*, 31 March 2010).

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 5 March 2010

Police who found cannabis plants and crack cocaine at a house in **Ravensthorpe**, West Yorkshire, also recovered an **air rifle**. Two men were arrested.

Dewsbury Reporter, 5 March 2010

A man with what is believed to be a gun and another man brandishing a baton beat a man and tried to steal his Land Rover in **Savile Town**, Dewsbury in West Yorkshire. A woman was also threatened. The men were unable to start the vehicle and fled on foot.

Borehamwood & Elstree Times, 5 March 2010

Two men, one of whom was carrying what appeared to be a black handgun, entered a travel agents in **Borehamwood**, Hertfordshire, told staff and customers to go into a back room and then took a quantity of cash.

West Yorkshire Police, 4 March 2010

Two customers at a service station in **Wakefield**, West Yorkshire, apprehended a man who is alleged to have been making threats to staff with a gun. The man had fled when police arrived at the scene, but a man was later arrested on suspicion of robbery.

This is Nottingham, 4 March 2010

A man in on trial accused of murdering a 16-year-old who was shot four times in **St Ann's**, Nottingham, in February 2002. It is alleged that the bullets used were "improvised", made up of a .22 air pellet with a BB pellet stuck to the bottom. Another man denies assisting an offender after he allegedly collected the murder weapon from a flat where it had been left and got rid of it. Rene Sarpong has been found guilty of the murder and given a life sentence, with a minimum term of 22 years. The jury failed to reach a verdict on the other man charged with helping to dispose of the gun (*BBC*, 26 March 2010).

Stourbridge News, 4 March 2010

Two men who have been jailed for running a cannabis factory in **Brierley Hill**, West Midlands, said they had been threatened with a gun by the man who had leased an old coach from them and had set up the operation. However, after he left they continued to operate the factory. Ian Walker and Paul Weston were each jailed for four years.

South London Press, 4 March 2010

A total of 77 tower block windows have been hit and £10,000 damage caused during an **airgun** attack on a block in **Rotherhithe**, south east London. All the windows have been blasted from the inside.

Somerset County Gazette, 4 March 2010

A man was shot in the foot with an **air rifle** while out walking his dog in **Taunton**. He was taken to hospital for treatment for non life threatening injuries.

Northern Echo, 4 March 2010

A man is claimed to have fired shots at passing cars and pedestrians from a bedroom window in **Durham City**. It is believed the weapon involved was an **airgun**. One passer-by was hit on the side of the head and another pellet pierced a shopper's carrier bag.

The News (Portsmouth), 4 March 2010

A teenager from **Southsea**, Hampshire, who claimed he had been forced to sell drugs after having a gun put to his head by a London gang has pleaded guilty to four drug charges. Dwayne R'Kaloo has been sent to a young offenders' institute for three years.

Manchester Evening News, 4 March 2010

Zachary Gaffey, 18, was armed with a Webley Nemesis **air pistol** when he robbed a shop in **Salford** in July 2009. He was found guilty of robbery and jailed for five years and four months. A police spokesperson said "Replica guns like the one used are almost indistinguishable from a 'real' gun and whether genuine or fake the fear they cause is very real".

Evening Gazette, 4 March 2010

A court has been told how a **sawn-off shotgun** was fired into a house in **Guisborough**, Teesside, in a gang revenge attack in May 2009. The identity of the gunman is not known. Two men are charged with conspiracy to possess a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and violent disorder. It is alleged they assembled a large group armed with various weapon and finally the loaded firearm. Douglas Ward and James Errington pleaded guilty to the conspiracy charge and five others have admitted violent disorder. James Dawson and Darren Empson have been convicted of violent disorder and Dawson of conspiracy to possess a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence (*Evening Gazette*, 13 March 2010).

Croydon Guardian, 4 March 2010

A man had a gun put against his head when three men tried to steal his car in **Norbury**, south London. The men tried to pull him out of his car but were unable to and he then began sounding the horn. The robbers fled after stealing the victim's wallet and two tool boxes.

Bolton News, 4 March 2010

A man was badly injured as he tried to fight off a gang who burst into the family home in **Bradshaw**, Lancashire. The gang were armed with a machete, an axe, a **sawn-off shotgun** and a handgun. The family were held at gunpoint before the men fled with a small amount of cash.

Welwyn & Hatfield Times, 3 March 2010

Two roads were cordoned off for four hours in **Hatfield**, Hertfordshire, during an incident in which a woman claimed she had a gun. She has been sectioned under the Mental Health Act.

News Shopper, 3 March 2010

Police seize a cache of weapons when they swooped on a house in **Mottingham**, south London. They recovered a **sawn-off shotgun**, a high calibre hunting rifle, a quantity of ammunition, an **air pistol** and a large machete. A man and a teenage woman have been arrested on suspicion of handling stolen goods, possession of class A drugs and firearms offences.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 3 March 2010

A teenager who was 15 when he carried out a raid on a newsagents in **Lockwood**, West Yorkshire, in November 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) has admitted charges of robbery and possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent to rob. He claimed to have been put up to it by another man who gave him the gun. He has been sent to detention for three years.

Evening Chronicle, 3 March 2010

Anthony Taylor has been jailed for five years after committing two armed robberies, in one of which, at a games shop in **Jarrow**, Tyne and Wear, in March 2007 (see [Incidents](#)), he was armed with an **imitation firearm**.

Echo, 3 March 2010

A disabled man was threatened and pistol-whipped by a gang who burst into his flat in **Southend**, Essex, where he was with his brother. They demanded cash or they would shoot him.

Avon & Somerset Police, 3 March 2010

Five men were arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm after a stop and search of a vehicle leaving **Weston-super-Mare**, Somerset, uncovered a handgun, ammunition and balaclavas.

Wandsworth Guardian, 2 March 2010

Residents in **Clapham Junction**, south London, have reported seeing a man carry out two armed robberies, at a jewellers and a newsagents. He is alleged to have pulled a gun on a worker in the newsagents. However, police have not been able to confirm any details.

This is Derbyshire, 2 March 2010

A fake gun was allegedly brandished during what is thought to have been a bungled burglary at a suspected cannabis factory in **Winshill**, Staffordshire. A teenager suffered stab wounds during the incident. Four people were arrested and one was charged with attempted robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm**.

The Star, 2 March 2010

Andre Hulse fired both barrels of a **shotgun** over the heads of two innocent anglers because he feared they might be troublemakers. He had been plagued by burglars and vandals at his cottage in **Mexborough**, South Yorkshire. Three legally-held shotguns and a starting pistol were recovered from his house after the incident. He pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and his firearm certificate was cancelled. He was jailed for two-and-a-half years.

News Shopper, 2 March 2010

Ross Jackson robbed a bookmaker in **Penge**, South London, in September 2009. He claimed he had a concealed gun but no weapon was found and police suspect he did not actually have a weapon. He has admitted robbery and been given a 16 month jail sentence.

Ledbury Reporter, 2 March 2010

A Brno .22 bolt-action rifle was stolen from a farm near **Ledbury**, Herefordshire.

Echo, 2 March 2010

Two windows were damaged at apartments in **Leigh-on-Sea**, Essex. The damage may have been caused by stones or an **air rifle**.

BBC, 2 March 2010

Two men were arrested at a hotel in **Kendal**, Cumbria, after guest reported seeing a man with a gun. A Taser was used when one of them refused to cooperate with the police. Both were arrested on suspicion of firearms offences and one of threats to kill. Three firearms were found at a house near Kendal (*BBC*, 3 March 2010).

This is Lancashire, 1 March 2010

Haroon Rafiq has been found guilty of possessing a prohibited firearm, a modified .22 rimfire double barrelled over and under Derringer starting pistol with a barrel of less than 30 cm, of possessing prohibited ammunition, cartridges with bullets designed to explode on or immediately after impact and common assault. He was cleared of threatening to kill a detective sergeant. The weapons were found at a house in **Nelson**, Lancashire, in June 2009 (see [December 2009 Incidents](#)). Rafiq said he had a gun to protect his family and land after being shot five times in Barrowford. He has been told to expect a lengthy sentence.

Oldham Advertiser, 1 March 2010

A woman had a gun held to her throat during a robbery at her home in **Oldham**, Greater Manchester, by a man who demanded money. The victim fainted after handing over some cash and jewellery and when she came round he had gone.

Lowestoft Journal, 1 March 2010

A man produced what appeared to be a small handgun during a robbery at a service station in **Lowestoft**, Suffolk, and took a quantity of cash.

The Herald (Plymouth), 1 March 2010

A man from **Southway**, Plymouth, has been charged with possessing a **stun gun**, CS spray and pepper spray, two counts of producing cannabis and assaulting a police officer in September 2009.

Enfield Independent, 1 March 2010

Andrey Trifono was found in possession of a loaded gun capable of shooting pellets of poisonous gas. Police discovered the weapon, which resembled a loaded revolver, in a car parked at a retail park in **Enfield**, north London, in which Trifono was asleep in August 2009. He admitted he had a gun in the boot. He was found guilty of possessing a prohibited weapon, possession of an **air weapon using a self-contained gas cartridge** system and possession of prohibited ammunition and given a three year sentence.

BBC, 1 March 2010

Shots were fired near playing fields in **Vauxhall**, Liverpool. No one was injured but the police believed it was a targeted attack. A children's football match was abandoned when the shots rang out (*Click Liverpool*, 1 March 2010).

BBC, 1 March 2010

Armed robbers threatened a worker at a garage in **Southend**, Essex, with a knife and hit him with a gun. He was forced to open the safe and the men made off with about £1000.

SCOTLAND

Evening Express, 31 March 2010

George McBain from **Inverurie**, Aberdeenshire, has admitted failing to secure a **shotgun** and ammunition at his home. He was ordered to pay £300 for each offence.

Ayrshire Post, 26 March 2010

Ross Murphy held an **imitation handgun** to his girlfriend's head. His victim was left cowering between a tumble drier and microwave at a house they shared in **Mauchline**, Ayrshire, in December 2009. Friends managed to get the gun out of his hand. The gun did not fire bullets or pellets but made a loud shooting sound and is used to scare birds. Murphy, a member of the local airgun club, pleaded guilty to shooting, swearing, acting in a threatening manner, brandishing an imitation handgun, placing a woman in a state of fear and alarm and committing a breach of the peace. He was fined £330 and allowed to walk free. The sheriff said he was taking note of his early guilty plea and favourable background report.

Scotsman, 24 March 2010

Police have seized a handgun, a **shotgun** and **imitation firearms** during a six-month operation targeting organised crime in **Edinburgh**.

Press Association, 24 March 2010

A man has killed himself after holding a child hostage at gunpoint in **Dingwall**, Ross-shire, for three hours. Police had managed to negotiate the child's safe release. The gunman had abducted the 11-year-old daughter of a former girlfriend and shot himself with a **shotgun** (*The Herald*, 25 March 2010). The man had broken a series of court bans on approaching the girl's mother after previously assaulting her (*Highland News*, 1 April 2010).

Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser, 24 March 2010

Police responded to two incidents in the same evening. In the first in **Langloan**, North Lanarkshire, a minor had fired a **BB gun** which a police source said is "potentially lethal". No arrests were made but the police issued warnings. In the second incident in **Coatbridge** an armed response unit reacted to a report that someone fired an **air rifle** at officers attending an earlier incident in the same street. No one was arrested.

Paisley Daily Express, 18 March 2010

Police have found a number of guns hidden in an attic in **Foxbar**, Paisley. The arsenal included a **bolt action shotgun**, two revolvers and a **ball-bearing gun**.

Press & Journal, 17 March 2010

A man has been jailed for 16 months after he admitted using a **stun gun** on another man at a nightclub in **Inverness** in September 2009. Donald Stewart used it on his victim's neck. He pleaded guilty to assaulting the man and to possessing a prohibited weapon in public, contrary to the Firearms Act 1968.

BBC, 17 March 2010

Spencer Henderson has admitted breaching the Customs and Excise Management Act after being arrested at **Aberdeen Airport** trying to import two **stun guns** from Thailand. He was ordered to carry out 240 hours of community service (*BBC*, 30 March 2010).

BBC, 17 March 2010

A married couple have been found dead at a house in **Bishopbriggs**, East Dunbartonshire, after a suspected shooting incident. The police are not believed to be looking for anyone else in connection with the incident. It is reported that the man took his **double-barrelled shotgun** from a locked cabinet and waited for his wife to return from her job. He shot her and then himself. It is alleged by one of the man's friends that he had said that "he'd had enough of his wife and was going home to shoot her. We knew he had a gun licence".

Wee County News, 11 March 2010

A handgun, heroin and stolen goods were seized by police in drugs raids in Clackmannanshire. The handgun was found hidden under a shed in **Tullibody**. Inquiries are ongoing to establish the authenticity of the firearm. Three people, including two women, have been arrested in connection with drugs offences.

stv, 11 March 2010

Two men armed with a gun and a knife threatened a member of staff at a bookmaker's in **Blantyre**, South Lanarkshire. They escaped with hundreds of pounds.

stv, 9 March 2010

A man armed with what is thought to be a gun held up two security guards as they filled up cash machines at **St George' Cross**, Glasgow. The guards were forced to hand over a five-figure sum.

Scotsman, 8 March 2010

A man has been seriously injured after being shot in the face three times and stabbed in a pub in **Edinburgh**. The incident was linked to a long-running feud between two families. The victim was in a stable condition in hospital. The police are confident that the weapon was not, as originally reported, an air rifle and that it was discharged once. (*Evening News*, 9 March 2010). One man has been accused of assault with intent to murder and a breach of the Firearms Act 1968 and a second man with assault with intent to murder (*BBC*, 11 March 2010).

BBC, 4 March 2010

A 16-year-old boy was shot in an **airgun** attack as he walked along a street in **Cardenden**, Fife. He sustained minor injuries.

BBC, 4 March 2010

Mark Noble was caught with two **stun guns** and nine pepper sprays at **Edinburgh Airport** when he was travelling back from Thailand. He admitted having the weapons in his possession and has been ordered to carry out 220 hours of community service.

Greenock Telegraph, 3 March 2010

A man has appeared in court after allegedly being in possession of a firearm and a loaded **air weapon** at a hotel in **Wemyss Bay**, Renfrewshire.

Evening News, 3 March 2010

A woman has told a murder conspiracy trial that she stole a Luger-style handgun along with other items from a house in **Edinburgh**. The gun was later sold for £150 or £250. She later contacted the police after hearing that the owners of the gun were after her.

stv, 2 March 2010

A man who shot a walker in the bottom whilst he was aiming his **air rifle** at a sign has pleaded guilty to recklessly discharging an air rifle and recklessly discharging the air rifle at a vehicle and having an air rifle without a firearms certificate. During the incident which took place in **Edinburgh** in September 2009 a shot had cracked the windscreen of a delivery driver's car. An air rifle, which weapons experts said was powerful enough to require a certificate, was found at the flat of Donovan Saidi, 20, the next day. Sentencing was deferred.

Evening News, 2 March 2010

A woman was struck in the head and hand by **airgun** pellets whilst she was out jogging near **Haddington**, East Lothian. She saw two vehicles with their windows open with the occupants holding what appeared to be airgun rifles.

WALES

Daily Post, 27 March 2010

An **airgun** sniper took shots at children in a school playground in **Llanrug**, Gwynedd. Two teenage pupils were injured, one in the chest and one in the leg.

BBC, 24 March 2010

Police found a **stun gun**, pepper spray and cannabis during a raid in **Ringland**, Newport. A man was arrested and then bailed.

Western Telegraph, 22 March 2010

Douglas Hedley from **Pembroke Dock**, Dyfed, is awaiting sentencing for possessing a **shotgun** with a shortened barrel.

Daily Post, 19 March 2010

John Forester has admitted wounding and having a firearm in a public place. He shot a teenage girl in the leg with a pellet whilst she was staying at a campsite near **Harlech**, Gwynedd, in May 2009. Forester was camping in the area with friends and had brought the **.22 air rifle** with telescopic sight with him. His victim will be permanently scarred. He was jailed for 50 weeks, suspended for 18 months. He will undertake 250 hours unpaid work and pay £1500 compensation. The gun was confiscated and Forester was banned from possessing any air-powered weapon for 18 months.

Reuters, 3 March 2010

A 15-year-old boy, found alone in a house in **Newport** with a single gunshot wound, is in a critical condition in hospital. A man has been arrested. It has since been reported that the man is the victim's stepfather. The police are searching for the weapon, described as 'some kind of handgun' (*Western Mail*, 4 March 2010). A man has appeared in court charged with possessing a prohibited weapon, a self-loading rifle handgun, perverting the course of justice and neglecting the boy (*South Wales Argus*, 7 March 2010).

South Wales Argus, 1 March 2010

Orrie Campbell has been jailed for six years after admitting possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life and possession of ammunition. He was arrested in a flat in **Newport** in November 2009 after a tip-off from a member of the public. The gun was designed to fire blanks but was classified as a prohibited weapon as it had been modified.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Cornishman, 31 March 2010

A man who was found guilty of wilfully killing a badger and using a firearm to kill a badger in **Towednack**, Cornwall, in 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) and had been fined and forfeited his rifle and gun licence has had his conviction overturned. The appeal ruling found forensic tests matching his rifle to the fatal bullet were inconclusive.

Evening Express, 29 March 2010

A kitten has been shot in an apparent **airgun** attack in **Kincorth**, Aberdeen. A pellet is lodged in her spine and the vet was unable to operate.

The News, 26 March 2010

A cat was almost killed after being shot with an **air rifle** in **Hayling Island**, Hampshire. His owner found him badly injured and a vet noticed a small round hole in his side and removed the pellet. The cat had probably been shot from above, probably from a second story window. In December his owner had noticed a similar small bloody mark on another cat and another of his cats turned up in January with a hole in her paw. He now believes that they too may have been shot.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 26 March 2010

A cat was shot dead with an **airgun** in the latest in a spate of attacks in **Huddersfield**, West Yorkshire. The cat's kidney was punctured, and he died despite efforts to save him. Two weeks earlier a cat who had been missing for two days from his home in **Deighton** was found with a wound. The vet could not remove the pellet. In another incident two months before a cat had been brought to the same surgery with a shattered leg.

Manchester Evening News, 25 March 2010

Two men used a **shotgun** to shoot a stray sheep which fell into a pit where they were working at **Prestbury**, Cheshire. They were putting to animal out of its misery, but then beheaded it and fed it to their ferrets. Both Peter Harvey and Mark Mellor had admitted criminal damage to a sheep to the value of £170. Mellor was fined £50 and must pay compensation and costs. Harvey was given a conditional discharge for that offence, but has now pleaded guilty to eight offences of possessing a prohibited weapon, five counts of converting a firearm and six offences of possessing a firearm without a certificate, and sentencing in that case was adjourned.

Horse and Hound, 24 March 2010

A horse found with facial wounds in **East Preston**, Sussex, is believed to have been shot with an **air rifle**.

Herald Express, 23 March 2010

A vet discovered a 5mm **air rifle** pellet lodged near the spine of a cat who had been shot in **Paignton**, Devon. His owner had discovered the cat had been wounded just behind the right front leg and found a big hole.

Wigan Evening Post, 22 March 2010

In the latest of a number of incidents in which cats have been shot in Wigan, Lancashire, a pet from **Poolstock** had to have a damaged kidney removed and a hole in his gut repaired. The track of the pellet and the level of its penetration showed that the muzzle of the **air rifle** was virtually touching the cat when the trigger was pulled.

Melton Times, 19 March 2010

A swan was killed when it was shot through the neck with an **airgun** on a canal near **Bottesford**, Leicestershire. Killing a swan is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 2001 and carries a maximum £5000 fine and/or six months in jail.

Manchester Evening News, 18 March 2010

Two cats have been shot with an **air rifle** in **Davenport**, Stockport. Surgery was needed to remove pellets from both animals. One was shot in his hind leg, the other in her stomach.

Northumberland Gazette, 12 March 2010

A cat has been shot with an **airgun** in **Alnwick**, Northumberland. A pellet found lodged in its hip was removed by a vet (*Northumberland Gazette*, 20 March 2010).

This is Gloucestershire, 9 March 2010

A cat has been shot with a **shotgun** in **Stroud**, Gloucestershire. He crawled home wailing with pain and peppered with lead shot. He suffered a fractured leg and wounds to his chest and back.

Deadlines Scotland, 8 March 2010

The SSPCA has highlighted an appalling case of cruelty encountered by the organisation in 2009. A tiny Staffie dog was shot in the head 13 times with an **airgun** in **Glasgow** by her drunk owner who left her for dead. The owner was prosecuted and banned from keeping animals and the dog, who survived, was successfully re-homed.

BBC, 8 March 2010

A cat has suffered "appalling" injuries after being shot with an **air rifle** at close range in **Delabole**, Cornwall. He had two limbs shattered in the attack when the pellet hit one of his legs, passed through his stomach and exited through another leg. It is hoped he will fully recover after being given emergency medical treatment.

Wakefield Express, 5 March 2010

A swan has been shot dead in a third attack in as many weeks in the Wakefield area of West Yorkshire. The bird was discovered floating in water at **Stanley Ferry**. It was found to have a pellet wound to the head, probably caused by an **air rifle**. In February another swan was shot dead in **Altofts** where a group of four men, two dressed in camouflage trousers, were seen shooting the swan in the neck with an air rifle.

The Sun, 5 March 2010

Michael Reed from **Rugeley**, Staffordshire, shot and killed his neighbour's dog with an **air rifle** when she strayed on his lawn. He had been drinking at the time of the incident. He has admitted causing unnecessary suffering to an animal and been fined £500 and told to pay £500 compensation. The gun was confiscated. He says he does not know why he did it.

Gazette & Herald, 5 March 2010

A goshawk was found peppered with **shotgun** pellets on moorland in **Bransdale**, North Yorkshire. It had been shot in flight. An x-ray confirmed that a pellet had gone through one thigh and another pellet had got into a lung which killed the bird.

Halstead Gazette, 3 March 2010

A buzzard was found with a hole in its wing, thought to have been caused by a shot from an **airgun**. It was discovered by a farmer at **Wethersfield**, Essex.

Fenland Citizen, 3 March 2010

A cat has been shot with what is believed to be an **air rifle** in **Chatteris**, Cambridgeshire. He was wounded on his right thigh.



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