



MAY 2009 - SUMMARY

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - Seven people, all males, died in shooting incidents during May.
- Four of the deaths were apparent homicides: two of the victims were shot in south London (Wandsworth, West Croydon), a teenager was killed in Stretford (Greater Manchester - one man remained in custody in connection with the shooting) and another victim died in Nottingham. The fatal shootings in Greater Manchester and Nottingham were the first in those areas for 16 months and nearly 3 years, respectively.
- Police reported that a firearm was involved in the death of a man in a car park in Horley (Surrey) but that there were no suspicious circumstances.
- Two people died after being shot by police marksmen in incidents in Fernhurst (Sussex) and Shildon (County Durham). In the Fernhurst incident the man was a firearms certificate holder and member of a local rifle club who apparently fired a gun four times at police officers. In the Shildon incident a crossbow was apparently fired. In a third incident police shot and injured a man apparently seen in possession of a firearm at the railway station in Carfin (North Lanarkshire).
- There was a worrying increase this month in the reported number of other people who sustained gunshot injuries in incidents. These occurred in:
 - Bedfordshire (3) - following two shootings in Luton last month there were three further incidents in which men were shot and injured in the town during May
 - Berkshire (1) - a man was in a critical condition after a targeted attack in Slough
 - Cambridgeshire (1) - a man was injured in the hand by a single shot outside a store in Peterborough
 - County Durham (2) - two men were seriously injured in shooting incidents in Stanley (two men have been held on suspicion of attempted murder)
 - Greater Manchester (1) - a man admitted himself to hospital with chest wounds after a shooting in Haughton Green
 - London (4) - a man suffered minor injuries in a street fight outside Manor House tube station, another spent 11 days in hospital after being shot in Leytonstone, a teenager was shot in the leg in a shooting in Stonebridge and police found a man with a shotgun wound in Hackney
 - Merseyside (5) - four men were injured in three possibly related incidents at pubs in West Derby (one man has been arrested), and a woman was shot in the leg at a house in Greenbank
 - West Midlands (4) - a man was shot outside a gym in Highgate (Birmingham), two others were shot, one in the chest and one in the back, in an incident in Handsworth (Birmingham) (two men have been arrested), and another victim was shot with a shotgun fired from a car in Stoke Aldermoor (Coventry)
 - West Yorkshire (1) - a man was in a stable condition after he was shot in Moortown (Leeds)
- A woman was accidentally shot by her husband near Woodbridge (Suffolk) when the shotgun he was carrying went off as he stumbled.
- Non-gunshot injuries were sustained by victims in other incidents involving men apparently armed with guns in Guildford (Surrey, where two victims were attacked with an iron bar and a gun) and in two incidents in Warwickshire, the first in Rugby where a security guard was injured during an attempted robbery at

a garden centre and the other in Bulkington where a man suffered head injuries from a crowbar during a car theft.

- Other victims were injured as a result of being shot with airguns and BB guns (see below).

- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - Security guards were threatened with what appeared to be firearms during a robbery in Cumbernauld.
- A man is wanted in connection with five robberies involving a handgun which happened on buses in Erdington and Sutton Coldfield (West Midlands)
- A taxi driver had a pistol pressed to his head during an attempted robbery in Heywood (Greater Manchester).
- A woman was threatened with a handgun by a mugger in Vange (Essex), but the man ran off empty-handed. Two youths armed with an airgun robbed two victims in Jericho (Oxford). A gang of girls armed with a ball-bearing gun tried to rob a woman near Hyde Park in London - a 16-year-old girl has been charged with robbery and possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.
- Guns were involved in car thefts in Bulkington (Warwickshire) (the victim was hit on the head with a crowbar and the assailants threatened to shoot him) and Winson Green (Birmingham) (a gang of youths armed with a shotgun threatened motorists at temporary traffic lights and stole a car).
- There were other robberies and attempted robberies which were alleged to have involved guns at:
 - A Bank - in Gillingham (Kent) in which the robber may have been armed with an imitation gun
 - Betting Shops - in Glasgow, Duddingston Park South (Edinburgh) and North Ormesby (Middlesbrough)
 - A Garden Centre - near Rugby (Warwickshire) (a security guard was hit during an attempted robbery by five men armed with a crowbar and possibly two handguns) (see above)
 - A Food Outlet - in Knaresborough (North Yorkshire)
 - A Petrol station - in Aylesbury (Buckinghamshire)
 - Shops - in Ayr (where an airgun was used), South Shields (Tyneside), Staverton (Wiltshire) (three men were arrested after an attempted robbery involving an airgun), Flint Hill (Country Durham) and Wednesfield (West Midlands) (two teenagers have been arrested)

- **Other Incidents** - Shots were fired at houses in two separate incidents in Merseyside (in Allerton and Huyton).
- A man has claimed that two gunmen on motorbikes aimed a gun at him as he was driving in Southport (Merseyside).
- A teenager who appeared to fire a gun caused a cyclist to fall off his bicycle in Milton Keynes - police have not established whether the weapon was real or an imitation.
- Police recovered a shotgun and an air rifle from an address in Weymouth (Dorset) after a woman fled a flat with her baby claiming her husband had made threats to kill her - a man was arrested.
- A 15-year-old was arrested after he was found in possession of a sawn-off shotgun in South Norwood (south London), and a 16-year-old was arrested in Huyton (Merseyside) on suspicion of being in possession of a fully loaded, pump-action shotgun. An 18-year-old was arrested on suspicion of firearms offence after one of two men acting suspiciously was seen to throw a handgun in Longsight (Manchester).
- Two men, one of whom holds a current firearms certificate, were arrested after reports of a man being threatened in an incident involving firearms in Frampton (Dorset). A man was to be questioned about suspected firearms offences after being arrested in Albrighton (Shropshire).

- A drunken man was arrested at home after he had threatened to fetch a shotgun when he was stopped from taking his shopping because he could not afford to pay for it.
- A man and a woman were arrested in relation to firearms offences in Bedworth (Warwickshire).
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns** - More victims were hit with pellets fired from airguns and BB guns:
 - A cyclist was shot in the leg with an airgun pellet as he cycled along a canal towpath in Warwickshire
 - A woman filling her car with petrol in Bulwell (Nottinghamshire) was shot with an air rifle - her stomach was punctured
 - An 8-year-old girl was shot in the eye with a BB gun whilst she played in a park in Worcester
 - A teenager suffered minor injuries when he was shot with an airgun in Oxford
 - A man was shot in the face with what has been described as a BB gun when he was walking near Basingstoke (Hampshire)
 - A golfer was shot on the hip with an air rifle while playing in Sinfin (Derby), and in Sinfin Moor a 15-year-old boy was hit twice in the leg
 - A victim received minor injuries after being shot with an air rifle in East Ham (east London)
 - A delivery van driver was shot in the leg with an air rifle in Atherton (Lancashire) (three people were being questioned by police)
 - A postman was shot with an airgun in Barrhead (East Renfrewshire) which has led to mail deliveries to the street where it happened being halted.
- A teenager was shot in the face as he was examining an airgun at an address in Bulkington (Warwickshire).
- An airgun was fired towards a man as he walked in Dufftown (Moray).
- Airguns and imitation guns were probably used in at least five of the robberies and attempted robberies in May (see above):
 - A man threatened staff at a store in Ayr with what appeared to be an airgun
 - An airgun was used in an attempted robbery on a shop in Staverton (Wiltshire)
 - Two youths armed with an airgun robbed two people in Jericho (Oxford)
 - A gang of girls armed with a ball-bearing gun attempted to rob a woman in London
 - It was reported that a man who stole cash from a bank in Gillingham (Kent) may have been armed with an imitation gun
- Police had to deal with a number of other incidents involving airguns and imitation guns:
 - A man was to be charged with possessing an imitation firearm and criminal damage after an incident at a pub in Flint
 - Armed police surrounded a group of youths in Dogsthorpe (Peterborough) after a gun had been spotted in a garden - the weapon turned out to be an air rifle
 - A man armed with a BB gun and knife was arrested in Tenterden (Kent) on suspicion of possessing an imitation firearm, possessing a bladed article and assaulting police
 - A man was being questioned after a man carrying a gun was challenged by a security guard in the grounds of a hotel in Bishopton (Renfrewshire) - an air rifle was discovered by police in a van
 - A woman was arrested on suspicion of possession of an offensive weapon after a couple walking home in Henley-on-Thames (Oxfordshire) were confronted with a woman with a gun, believed to be a BB gun

- Firefighters were apparently prevented from putting out a fire at a house in Kettering (Northamptonshire) by a man wielding an axe and what appeared to be an air rifle - a man has been charged with a suspected arson attack.
- Workmen resurfacing a road at Llanerfyl (Powys) have been threatened by a motorist who said he would use an air rifle to shoot them.
- A car door was damaged when an airgun was fired at a passing car in Llanymynech (Powys). A stretch limousine was shot at with an airgun in Hendon (Sunderland), and an airgun pellet was fired at a bus in Southwater (West Sussex).
- Windows of shops on an estate in Ipswich have been shattered, probably with a BB gun. An air rifle pellet was fired through a kitchen window in Pinehurst (Swindon). Someone armed with an air rifle has been smashing windows and deflating tyres in the village of Ashton (Cornwall). Two men are on bail after they allegedly used an air rifle to shatter a window at a home in the centre of Barrow (Cumbria).
- A speed camera was fired at with an airgun at Leverton (Lincolnshire). In one of a number of incidences of vehicle damage in Honicknowle (Plymouth) dents were caused to a car by a ball-bearing gun.
- A 14-year-old was charged after an incident at a school in Aberdeen involving a replica weapon.
- Travellers camped in Sidmouth (Devon) have been "frightening" local residents who have seen them brandish an air rifle.
- An air rifle was among weapons seized by police in an operation in which nine people were arrested at stations in Wimbledon and Morden (south London).
- **Guns Recoveries and Thefts** - More guns were found during police raids in which drugs were also recovered:
 - A man was arrested on suspicion of supplying drugs and possessing a firearm in Keighley (West Yorkshire)
 - A stun gun was among stolen goods and other items, including drugs, recovered following a series of raids in south-east London: a WPC was among seven people arrested
 - A stun gun was found with heroin during a raid in Hartlepool: three men and a woman were arrested
 - A man was charged with possession of firearms with intent to cause fear of violence and another was being questioned after police recovered a firearm, cash and a substance thought to be cocaine in Luton (Bedfordshire)
 - Three handguns, cash and drugs were seized by police following a series of raids in Blackburn, Oswaldtwistle and Accrington (Lancashire) - a teenager was among those arrested and has been charged with drug and firearm offences
 - Two men were charged with a string of drug and firearms offences after a discovery at a home in Laindon (Essex)
 - A man and a woman in Whitely (Berkshire) have been charged with cultivating cannabis at their home and handling stolen goods including an air rifle
- A man was arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit arson and possession of a firearm after a number of incidents in Sefton (Merseyside) - police had recovered a handgun, silencer and three magazines.
- A large haul of weapons, possibly from a dumped collection, was recovered from a river near St Cyrus (Aberdeenshire).
- An air pistol and pellets were stolen from an unlocked garage in Skegness (Lincolnshire). Twenty paintball guns and explosives were stolen from a company in Harewood Forest (Hampshire).

- **Incidents Involving Animals** - More and more owners are being left distraught after their pets have been shot and injured, sometimes fatally, with airguns. There is no indication whatsoever that this widespread problem is being taken seriously enough. It is obvious that far too many air weapons are in the hands of those who continue to misuse them, and the problem will only be tackled by the introduction of a registration system for airgun ownership.
 - This month cats were shot with airguns in incidents reported in Clywd, Derby, Devon, Gloucestershire, Gwent, Hampshire (two separate incidents), Hull (two separate incidents), Lancashire (one of a number of recent incidents in the area according to a local resident), Moray, Nottinghamshire (two cats shot following four earlier incidents), Rutland, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Sussex and Worcestershire (two separate incidents).
 - A dog was shot with an airgun after being let off its lead in Grimsby (Lincolnshire). A man used his rifle to shoot dead a bull terrier which attacked his own dog on a walk in Sutton-in-Ashfield - police are investigating the use of the firearm and why the dead animal was not under control.
 - Teenagers who have been drinking are causing problems at fishing ponds in Wigan (Greater Manchester) by firing on wildlife - one gander has been shot with an air rifle.
 - One teenage boy received an official caution and another a 24-hour community payback order for being in possession of a loaded air weapon after residents in Staincross (South Yorkshire) told the police that birds had been shot in the woods.
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- **Convictions** - A man who pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility, admitted robbery and various firearms offences has been detained under the Mental Health Act - he had admitted shooting dead a shopkeeper in Huyton (Merseyside).
- A man who arranged to murder a man at a pub in Salford, an attempt which resulted in the victim and another man being seriously injured and the two gunmen themselves being shot dead, has been jailed for life after being convicted of conspiracy to murder.
- A man who shot and injured a man who came to the aid of a security guard at the station in Rayleigh (Essex) during a robbery has been found guilty of a number of offences - two other defendants face a retrial after the jury failed to reach verdicts.
- A teenager who fired a 12-bore shotgun at a friend from his parents' home in Up Hatherley (Gloucestershire) whilst he was drunk was given a suspended nine months custodial sentence after admitting having a firearm with intent to cause his friend to believe unlawful violence would be used against him.
- A man who was armed with a knife and threatened to get a gun during a robbery at a shop in Talwrn (Anglesey) has been jailed for three years and four months. A man has admitted assault and robbery at a shop in Dennistoun (Glasgow) when he brandished a handgun and snatched £60 - sentencing was deferred.
- A man caught with a semi-automatic pistol and ammunition in his car in Loughborough (Leicestershire), as well as a small knife and cannabis, has been jailed for a total of eight years.
- A man has admitted a breach of the peace and a firearms offence after he had admitted sending shotgun cartridges and threatening letters to politicians in Scotland.
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns (Court Cases)** - A 16-year-old boy has been given a 10 month custodial sentence after pleading guilty to causing actual bodily

harm and possessing a firearm - he left a woman with horrible bruises after shooting her in the face with an air rifle in Norwich.

- A man has admitted behaving in a culpable and reckless manner and endangering a teenager - he fired an airgun at a 14-year-old girl in Aberdeen, hitting her in the head and body.
- A 17-year-old, who was one of a group of youths being led by an older woman which threw eggs at an Asian neighbour in Gravesend (Kent), fired an airgun during the incident and has been given community service and supervision.
- A man who fired an airgun out of his window in Broughton (Flintshire) admitted possessing a firearm with intent to cause people to believe that unlawful violence would be used against them and was given a suspended 40 week jail sentence.
- A driver who threatened another motorist with an air rifle and aimed it at his car in Draycott (Derby) admitted possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and has been jailed for two years and five months. A man who forced his way into a neighbour's house in Flint (Clwyd) and pointed an air rifle at her face has admitted affray, assault, possessing a firearm and breaching his Asbo.
- There were a number of court cases in which men admitted to charges of robbery involving airguns or imitation weapons
 - Two men who burst into a shop in Allenton (Derby) armed with an airgun have pleaded guilty to attempted robbery and possession of an imitation firearm and asked for a total of 23 other offences to be taken into consideration - they were each jailed for seven years
 - A man who entered a shop in Malvern (Worcestershire) armed with a replica Colt 45 pleaded guilty to attempted robbery and also theft of a shotgun which was found later by police - he was jailed for three-and-a-half years
 - Two teenagers have been sentenced to four years youth detention after admitting robbery following an incident in which a taxi driver was threatened with a gas powered air pistol in Mablethorpe (Lincolnshire)
 - One man has admitted possessing an imitation firearm, a blank-firing pistol, with intent to commit robbery at a shop in Old Colwyn (Clwyd) - his brother has admitted some other charges and a third man has denied all charges in an ongoing court case
 - Two men who attempted to hijack a car in Motherwell whilst armed with a carbon dioxide-powered pistol have pleaded guilty to a charge of abduction and robbery and one of them has admitted having a firearm with intent to make two police constables believe it would be used against and possessing the weapon after serving a long jail sentence - sentencing was deferred.
- A man who fired a pellet from an air rifle in a car park in Halesworth (Suffolk) was fined £100 - magistrates ordered the gun, which he had just bought on an internet auction site, to be destroyed. A teenager, who had also just acquired an air rifle that he had swapped for a car amplifier and who fired it at a van parked in Earls Colne (Essex) has admitted he had behaved recklessly and been ordered to pay compensation.
- Another man who had been banned from possessing firearms after a previous conviction has pleaded guilty to possession of air rifles and a stun gun, as well as other charges and has been jailed for 12 months - the weapons were found during two raids on his former home in Winsford (Cheshire).
- A teenager who dressed up in army kit and carried an imitation machine gun and handgun to college in King's Lynn was sentenced to 120 hours unpaid community service after admitting being in possession of imitation firearms.
- A man who showed off a BB gun in a Sunderland pub has been sentenced to 51 weeks imprisonment, suspended for two years with 12 months supervision after he admitted possessing the gun and two knives in public.

GUN INCIDENTS - MAY 2009

ENGLAND

BBC, 31 May 2009

Staff at a betting shop in **North Ormesby**, Middlesbrough, were threatened by a man with a gun but told him the cash had already been banked. A man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted robbery and released on police bail.

BBC, 31 May 2009

A man is to be questioned about suspected firearms offences after being arrested following an incident in **Albrighton**, Shropshire. Police who went to the scene found the man "co-operative and not in possession of a firearm" after being alerted by the public.

BBC, 31 May 2009

A woman fled a flat in **Weymouth**, Dorset, with her baby after claiming her husband had a gun. Armed officers and negotiators arrived at the home and persuaded the man to give himself up after about three hours. An **air rifle** and **shotgun** were seized. A man was arrested on suspicion of making threats to kill.

Louth Leader, 29 May 2009

A 16-year-old armed with a **gas-powered air pistol** pointed the replica Colt 45 pistol at a taxi driver in **Mablethorpe**, Lincolnshire, in December 2008. The youth was accompanied by Ryan Harrop, 18, who was brandishing a samurai sword. The younger man admitted robbery and possessing a firearm, and Harrop pleaded guilty to robbery and possessing a bladed article. Both were sentenced to four years youth detention. A fellow taxi driver who raced to the scene and apprehended the gunman was awarded £250 by the judge.

BBC, 28 May 2009

A man has admitted himself to hospital with gunshot wounds following reports of shots being fired on a street in **Haughton Green**, Manchester. He was treated for a chest wound but his injuries are not thought to be life threatening.

BBC, 28 May 2009

A man with a firearm, which may have been an **imitation gun**, raided a bank in **Gillingham**, Kent. He took an undisclosed amount of cash at gunpoint.

North West Evening Mail, 27 May 2009

Two men are on bail after they allegedly used an **air rifle** to shatter a window at a home in the centre of **Barrow**, Cumbria. They were arrested on suspicion of criminal damage.

BBC, 27 May 2009

A man has been shot in the stomach in **Stoke Aldermoor**, Coventry. A **shotgun** was fired from a vehicle which had been stolen in Leicestershire. The victim was in a stable condition in hospital.

BBC, 27 May 2009

Two men were shot, one in the chest and one in the back, in an incident in **Handsworth**, Birmingham. The victim with the chest injury was said to be in a critical condition, the other was stable. Two men have been arrested on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm.

This is West Country, 26 May 2009

Windows are being smashed and tyres deflated by someone armed with an **air rifle** in **Ashton**, Cornwall. A teenager has been seen with an air rifle, and police want information from people living in the village over who might have access to such a weapon.

Independent, 26 May 2009

In the latest of a number of incidents in **Luton**, Bedfordshire, a man was shot at a nightclub. The victim was in a critical condition in hospital. Four people, including a teenage woman, have been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder.

Henley Standard, 26 May 2009

A couple walking home in **Henley-on-Thames**, Oxfordshire, were confronted by a woman wielding a gun, believed to have been a **BB gun**. Police were called and the woman was arrested on suspicion of possession of an offensive weapon.

East London Advertiser, 26 May 2009

Police found a man with a gunshot wound when they were called to an incident in **Hackney**, east London. He had been wounded with a **shotgun**. He remains in hospital where his condition is critical but stable.

BBC, 26 May 2009

Five men carrying a crowbar and possibly two handguns hit a security guard and tied him up during an attempted robbery at a garden centre near **Rugby**, Warwickshire. The men tried to steal the safe but it proved to be too big and the offenders drove off in the security guard's car.

BBC, 26 May 2009

A man was in a critical condition after being shot as he left a property in **Slough**, Berkshire. The attacker, who was carrying a handgun, fled the scene. Police officers believe the shooting was targeted. A man arrested on suspicion of attempted murder was released without charge (*BBC*, 30 May 2009).

BBC, 26 May 2009

A man found seriously injured in an alleyway in **Nottingham** city centre died from a gunshot wound. Police said an "altercation" had earlier broken out in a nightclub in the city.

BBC, 24 May 2009

Two men brandishing handguns threatened a lone female member of staff at a shop in **Flint Hill**, County Durham. They took the contents of the till.

Northern Echo, 23 May 2009

Police, who responded to an anonymous call stating that a man had possession of a firearm and ammunition, believe it to have been a hoax after they searched a property in **Darlington** and found nothing.

Derby Evening Telegraph, 23 May 2009

In September 2008 Ashley Peters stopped his car in the middle of a road in **Draycott**, Derby, and walked to the vehicle behind, gesturing to the driver to get out and have a fight. He went back to his vehicle, picked up an **air rifle** with a telescopic sight and aimed it at the car. Peters was jailed for two years and five months after he admitted possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He said there was no ammunition in the rifle. When he was arrested he initially claimed to have been holding a broom. Peters already had a conviction for assault and criminal damage.

BBC, 23 May 2009

A man being held under suspicion of terror offences was initially arrested in **Batley**, West Yorkshire, under the Firearms Act.

BBC, 23 May 2009

Seven youths armed with a **shotgun** threatened motorists waiting at temporary traffic lights in **Winson Green**, Birmingham, and stole a car.

Loughborough News, 22 May 2009

Imran Khalifa had pleaded guilty to possession of a prohibited firearm and ammunition and has been jailed for a total of eight years. His car was stopped by police in **Loughborough**, Leicestershire, in December 2008, and when firearms officers searched the vehicle they found a semi-automatic pistol under the front passenger seat and ammunition. A small knife and cannabis were recovered.

Harrogate Advertiser, 22 May 2009

A drunken man who could not afford to pay for his shopping at a store in **Bilton**, North Yorkshire, threatened to fetch a **shotgun** if staff wouldn't let him take it home. He was arrested at home.

This is Total Essex, 21 May 2009

Two men have been charged with a string of drug and firearms offences after a discovery at a home in **Laindon**, Essex. One of the men has been charged with possessing ammunition for a firearm without a certificate and possessing a weapon for the discharge of noxious gases amongst other charges.

Reading Evening Post, 21 May 2009

A man and a woman from **Whitley**, Berkshire, have been charged with cultivating cannabis at their home and handling stolen goods, including an **air rifle** worth £600.

BBC, 21 May 2009

A man has been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit arson and possession of a firearm after a number of incidents in the **Sefton** area of Merseyside. Officers had recovered a handgun, silencer and three magazines.

BBC, 21 May 2009

An 18-year-old has been arrested on suspicion of firearms offences. Police officers spotted two men acting suspiciously in **Longsight**, Manchester, and one of them was seen throwing a handgun before the pair ran off.

This is Plymouth, 20 May 2009

Vandals caused thousands of pounds worth of damage when ten cars were targeted in **Honicknowle**, Plymouth. In one incident dents caused by a **ball bearing gun** were found in the back door of one car.

Southend Standard, 20 May 2009

Brian Wall has been found guilty of shooting a commuter who went to the aid of a security guard who was being robbed at the railway station in **Rayleigh**, Essex, in May 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). Wall was found guilty of committing grievous bodily harm with intent, conspiracy to commit robberies between September 2006 and April 2008 and conspiracy to possess firearms for these attacks. The jury failed to reach a verdict on two others accused who were charged with conspiracy to commit armed robberies and conspiracy to possess firearms. A retrial was ordered by the judge (*Southend Standard*, 21 May 2009).

Mirror, 20 May 2009

A gang of girls allegedly held up a woman at gunpoint near **Hyde Park** in London. They demanded the victim "give us your money", then handed it back saying it was a joke, but one pulled out a **ball bearing gun**, aimed it at the victim and pulled the trigger. One girl, aged 16, has been charged with robbery and possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. Three other women, two of whom are teenagers, have been bailed pending further inquiries.

BBC, 20 May 2009

A man suffered head injuries when he was attacked with a crowbar by men who threatened to shoot him and then stole his car. The victim was parking his car in **Bulkington**, Warwickshire, at the time of the attack.

BBC, 20 May 2009

A 16-year-old has been arrested on suspicion of being in possession of a fully loaded, **pump action shotgun**. The gun was found on the central reservation in **Huyton**, Merseyside. Two youths were spotted behaving strangely in the area.

BBC, 20 May 2009

Two teenagers have been arrested in connection with an armed robbery after a shopkeeper in **Wednesfield**, West Midlands, was threatened with a gun. Two people demanded money but left the store empty handed.

BBC, 20 May 2009

Bobby Speirs has been convicted of conspiracy to murder. He arranged to murder a man at a pub in **Salford** in March 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). Two gunmen, Richard Austin and Carlton Alveranga, entered the pub and started shooting, severely injuring two men one of whom was a rival of Speirs. The gunmen were themselves attacked and shot dead with their own weapons. Speirs had recruited Ian McLeod who provided the gunmen. McLeod was jailed for life in March 2007. Constance Howarth was also given a life sentence at the same trial as McLeod. Speirs has been jailed for life and must serve at least 23 years (*BBC*, 21 May 2009).

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 19 May 2009

The prosecution of a suspected armed robber has been formally closed following his apparent suicide in prison. The man was accused of aggravated burglaries in the **Northampton** area, robberies and possession of an **imitation firearm**. He had denied the charges but was in prison awaiting sentence for drugs and bail offences.

Mirror, 19 May 2009

A group of youths, some as young as 10 and led by a woman, threw eggs and fired an **airgun** at an Asian neighbour in **Gravesend**, Kent. The victim had previously lodged a complaint to police about a racially-aggravated assault. Matthew Beck, 17, who fired the gun was given community service and supervision. The court found that the youths had been encouraged by Helen Forster who was given a 10 months suspended sentence and was also given community service and supervision.

Manchester Evening News, 19 May 2009

A van driver was shot in the leg and arm by pellets fired from an **air rifle** as he made a bread delivery in **Atherton**, Lancashire. He was left with minor wounds. Two men and a teenage woman are being questioned by the police.

Harrogate Advertiser, 19 May 2009

A man wielding a handgun threatened staff at a fast food outlet in **Knaresborough**, North Yorkshire, before running off with an amount of cash.

Devon 24, 19 May 2009

Travellers who set up home in a field in **Sidmouth**, Devon, have left local residents "frightened" and "traumatised". The residents have described seeing them, among other things, brandish an **air rifle** with a telescopic sight.

Derby Evening Telegraph, 19 May 2009

A golfer was shot with an **air rifle** while playing a round of golf in **Sinfin**, Derby. He was hit by a pellet on the hip. In a second incident in **Sinfin Moor** a 15-year-old boy was shot twice in the leg.

BBC, 19 May 2009

Three handguns, cash and drugs were seized by police following a series of raids in east Lancashire. Addresses were raided in **Blackburn**, **Oswaldtwistle** and **Accrington**. Four men and two women were arrested on suspicion of drug offences and a teenager has been charged with drug and firearm offences (*BBC*, 20 May 2009).

BBC, 19 May 2009

A man has died after being found with gun injuries in **Croydon**, south London. Police were called to the scene after reports of shots being fired. It is believed that the shooting was a revenge attack for a previous incident and followed recent tit-for-tat shootings in the area (*This is Local London*, 19 May 2009).

Stourbridge News, 18 May 2009

Dean Pedley has failed in a test case bid to overturn an open-ended sentence given to him in September 2005 after he had admitted robbery and possession of a firearm. He was one of three men who raided a van delivery cash to a service station in **Kingswinford**, West Midlands, stealing £12,000. Pedley was armed with a .38 Magnum revolver which he fired in the air.

Malvern Gazette, 18 May 2009

Philip Dudson entered a shop in **Malvern Link**, Worcestershire, carrying a **replica Colt 45**. He was ordered outside by the shop assistant and was arrested two days later when police found the replica gun and a **double-barrelled shotgun** stolen by Dudson from an office in **Alfrick**. Dudson pleaded guilty to attempted robbery and theft of a shotgun and was jailed for three-and-a-half years.

Kent Online, 18 May 2009

Police disarmed a man armed with a **BB gun** and knife in a confrontation in **Tenterden**, Kent. The police had been called after reports of a man acting suspiciously. He was arrested on suspicion of possessing an imitation firearm, possessing a bladed article and assaulting police.

Gazette, 18 May 2009

Cameron Howe, 18, fired an **air rifle** at a van which was parked outside the owner's house in **Earls Colne**, Essex. He admitted he had behaved recklessly but said the incident was an accident. He had acquired the gun that day, swapping it for a car amplifier. He had only ever used an air rifle once before. He was ordered to pay £100 in compensation and £60 in court costs.

This is Croydon Today, 17 May 2009

Police in **Croydon**, south London, were called out to 20 incidents involving firearms in less than a month. Three incidents took place in **Thornton Heath** in April 2009. In one a 15-year-old boy was shot in the face, in another a 20-year-old suffered gunshot wounds and following the third shooting, which was included in GCN's list (see [Incidents](#)), a man may never be able to see again.

This is Derbyshire, 16 May 2009

Ian Gibson and Tracey Wood burst into a shop in **Allenton**, Derby, in February 2009, armed with an **airgun** which was pointed at a shop worker. The shop owner wrestled with Gibson, sustaining serious facial injuries, until police arrived and arrested him. Wood returned to throw a brick through the window, was chased by police and was seen to drop the gun behind a fence. Both men have pleaded guilty to attempted robbery and possession of an imitation firearm and asked for a total of 23 other offences to be taken into consideration. Both were jailed for seven years for attempted robbery and three years concurrently for possession of the imitation gun. The recorder ordered the destruction of the gun.

Swindon Advertiser, 16 May 2009

Among a series of anti-social activities in **Pinehurst**, Swindon, a couple found an **airgun** pellet had gone through their kitchen window. The police have been criticised by a relative for failing to respond.

This is Croydon Today, 15 May 2009

A 15-year-old has been arrested after he was found in possession of a **sawn-off shotgun** in **South Norwood**, south London. It is believed that the gun was loaded at the time.

Sunderland Echo, 15 May 2009

Shocked staff called the police after a customer showed off a .177 calibre **BB gun** in a pub in **Sunderland** in November 2008. Derek Bamford, who also had a butterfly knife and a lock knife, failed to comply with instructions when police arrived and was tasered. He has admitted possessing the weapons in public and been sentenced to 51 weeks imprisonment, suspended for two years with 12 months supervision.

Newham Recorder, 15 May 2009

A road in **East Ham**, east London, was sealed off after reports were made to police that a man had been shot with an **air rifle**. There was evidence of blood in the area on a pavement but it was reported that one man had received minor injuries in a minor incident.

BBC, 15 May 2009

A man and a woman have been arrested in relation to firearms offences. The man was also arrested in connection with an attempted robbery in **Bedworth**, Warwickshire, which was separate from the firearm offences.

BBC, 15 May 2009

A man was shot with what has been described by police as a **BB gun**. He was cutting through a park near **Basingstoke**, Hampshire. The shot caused swelling to his face.

Oxford Mail, 14 May 2009

A 16-year-old suffered minor injuries when he was shot with an **airgun** during a mass brawl in the centre of **Oxford**. Earlier two people were robbed in **Jericho**, Oxford, by two youths, one of whom was armed with an **airgun**. A 17-year-old has been arrested on suspicion of robbery and assault.

Northants Evening Telegraph, 14 May 2009

Eyewitnesses described seeing a man, wielding an axe and what appeared to be an **air rifle**, preventing firefighters from tackling a fire which had taken hold in a house in **Kettering**. A man has been charged after a suspected arson attack.

Berrow's Worcester Journal, 14 May 2009

An 8-year-old girl was shot in the eye with a **BB gun** whilst she was in a park in **Worcester** with her brother and a friend. Her brother was also hit in the head. Police officers called to the scene found the boy responsible but the victims' mother decided to take no action. She has called for a ban on the sale of BB guns.

BBC, 14 May 2009

A man has been charged with possession of firearms with intent to cause fear of violence and another is being questioned by police after armed police were called to reports of a man with a gun in **Luton**, Bedfordshire. Police recovered a firearm, cash and a substance thought to be cocaine.

West Sussex County Times, 13 May 2009

An **airgun** pellet was fired at a bus in **Southwater**, West Sussex, shattering one of the windows. A small number of passengers were on board.

Teletext, 13 May 2009

Police found heroin and a **stun gun** during a raid in **Hartlepool**. Three men and a woman were arrested.

Liverpool Echo, 13 May 2009

A cul-de-sac in **Allerton**, Liverpool, was sealed off by police after shots were fired at a house. In another incident in Merseyside at least four shots were fired at a house in **Huyton**.

Liverpool Echo, 13 May 2009

A man has claimed that two gunmen on motorbikes aimed a gun at him as he drove along a coastal road in **Southport**, Merseyside. It appeared to have been part of an ongoing attempt to extort money from him.

Harrow Observer, 13 May 2009

A 19-year-old is in hospital suffering from a bullet wound to his leg after a shooting outside a community centre in **Stonebridge**, north west London. Police had been called after reports of a gunshot being fired.

BBC, 13 May 2009

A man is wanted in connection with five robberies in which victims were threatened with a handgun. The robberies have happened on buses in **Erdington** and **Sutton Coldfield** in the West Midlands.

BBC, 13 May 2009

A man armed with a handgun grabbed money from the till at a petrol station in **Aylesbury**, Buckinghamshire. He visited 20 minutes earlier to buy milk.

BBC, 13 May 2009

A woman was threatened with a small black handgun by a mugger who tried to grab her handbag in the **Vange** area of Basildon, Essex. The woman screamed and the assailant ran off empty-handed.

Winsford Guardian, 12 May 2009

Craig Batin has been jailed for 12 months after pleading guilty to possession of **air rifles**, racially aggravated harassment, possession of a **stun gun** and possession of amphetamines. He had been banned from possessing firearms for life after a previous conviction. The weapons were found during two raids on his former home in **Winsford**, Cheshire, in September and November 2008.

Daily Mail, 12 May 2009

A report into the death of Private Geoff Gray, who was found dead at **Deepcut** barracks, Surrey, in September 2001, suggests he was shot by somebody else, according to his parents. A Board of Inquiry investigation report has been released but the contents cannot be revealed.

BBC, 12 May 2009

Twenty dangerous **paintball guns** and explosives have been stolen from a company in **Harewood Forest**, Hampshire. Thieves forced open a storage unit and made off with a range of replica weaponry and ammunition.

BBC, 12 May 2009

A woman was shot with an **air rifle** as she filled up her car with petrol at a supermarket in **Bulwell**, Nottinghamshire. The woman's stomach was punctured by the pellet and she was taken to hospital after the attack.

BBC, 12 May 2009

A man was injured in the hand by a single shot fired outside a store in **Peterborough**. The police have said that the victim was targeted by his attackers. The man was taken to hospital for treatment.

BBC, 12 May 2009

A woman has been shot in the leg at a house in **Greenbank**, Liverpool. She was taken to hospital. Her injuries are not thought to be life threatening.

BBC, 12 May 2009

A man was shot dead by police in a siege at a house in **Shildon**, County Durham. An armed team had been sent out after officers responding to 999 calls reported that a crossbow had been fired.

Rochdale Online, 11 May 2009

A taxi driver fended off would-be robbers who pressed a pistol to his head and tried to strangle him in **Heywood**, Greater Manchester. The driver had picked up two men earlier. The men ran off empty handed.

Moortown Today, 11 May 2009

A man is in a stable condition after he was shot in **Moortown**, Leeds. He was confronted by masked men. A man and a teenage woman, who was later released, were arrested in connection with the incident.

Guardian (Epping Forest, Waltham Forest, Wanstead & Woodford), 11 May 2009

A man has spent 11 days in hospital after being shot at point blank range in **Leytonstone**, north east London. The gunman approached him after getting involved in a fight.

Birmingham Mail, 11 May 2009

A man was seriously ill in hospital after he was shot outside a gym in **Highgate**, Birmingham. He was hit in the chest in a drive-by shooting. Witnesses said they heard five shots as well as the sound of car tyres squealing.

BBC, 11 May 2009

Ronald Higgins has been detained under the Mental Health Act after he admitted shooting dead a shopkeeper in **Huyton**, Liverpool, in May 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). Higgins suffered from a "major mental illness" and a "morbid fascination" with serial killers. He had pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. He also admitted attempted robbery, possessing a .44 calibre Pietta muzzle loading revolver and other firearms offences.

BBC, 11 May 2009

A 16-year-old boy has died after being shot in the head in the car park of a pub in **Stretford**, Greater Manchester. Two men were arrested on suspicion of murder but have been released, but another man remains in custody. It has been revealed that the victim had been shot in the leg three years ago.

BBC, 10 May 2009

Four people were injured during three incidents involving firearms in **West Derby**, Merseyside. In the first incident three people were injured when two people on a motorbike fired shots at a pub. The same men fired at a second pub. In a separate incident at another pub a security guard was shot in the leg by a man on a motorbike. There is currently no clear motive for the shootings. One man has been arrested in connection with the shootings (*BBC*, 12 May 2009).

Norwich Evening News, 9 May 2009

A 16-year-old boy has been given a 10 month sentence and will serve a minimum of five months in a young offenders' institution after pleading guilty to causing actual bodily harm and possessing a firearm. He shot a woman in the face with an **air rifle** as she was paying a visit to a friend's house in **Norwich** in November 2008. She sustained horrible bruises and had to spend two days in hospital. The youth aimed the gun at her from the back bedroom window of a house.

This is Gloucestershire, 8 May 2009

Benjamin Milson, 18, who fired a **12-bore shotgun** from his parents' bungalow in **Up Hatherley**, Gloucestershire, during a drunken party, has been given a nine months custodial sentence, suspended for 12 months, and given 200 hours of unpaid work and an electronically tagged curfew for six months. He must have nothing to do with guns. He could have killed his friend when he twice fired the shots. He admitted having a firearm with intent to cause his friend to believe unlawful violence would be used against him, but a not guilty verdict was recorded for the charge of actual bodily harm.

Evening Star, 8 May 2009

The windows of eight shops were shattered on an estate in **Ipswich**. Detectives believe the damage could have been caused by a **BB gun**.

BBC, 8 May 2009

A man was shot dead by armed police at a block of retirement homes in **Fernhurst**, West Sussex. The police had been called after reports that a man was in possession of a gun. The Independent Police Complaints Commission said it was investigating the case. It has been reported that the dead man used to go shooting and "had a firearms certificate so it was all licensed and above board". It is thought he was upset that his sick wife was facing going into a nursing home (*BBC*, 9 May 2009). It is now believed that a Colt handgun found at the scene had been fired four times and that a bullet found in a firearms officer's protective vest would not have come from a police gun. The man who died was a member of a local rifle club (*BBC*, 11 May 2009).

Skegness Standard, 7 May 2009

An **air pistol**, air pellets and telescopic sights were stolen from an unlocked garage in **Skegness**, Lincolnshire.

Lowestoft Journal, 7 May 2009

Matthew Sleightholme was arrested after firing a pellet from an **air rifle** in a car park in **Halesworth**, Suffolk. He bought the weapon on an internet auction site before shooting it at a tree in a park as children played nearby in April 2009. He was fined £100 and ordered to pay costs, and magistrates ordered the destruction of the gun.

Local Guardian, 7 May 2009

An **air rifle** was among weapons seized by police in an operation which saw nine people arrested as school pupils and passengers at stations in **Wimbledon** and **Morden**, south London, were searched.

Littlehampton Gazette, 7 May 2009

Police investigating the death of a man whose body was found in a car in **Horley**, Surrey, have confirmed that a firearm was involved. The death is not being treated as suspicious.

The Citizen (Burnley), 7 May 2009

A man from **Padiham**, Lancashire, has been terrorised by thugs for 14 months. Since he moved into his home the house has been shot at by people using **air rifles**, vandalised and broken into by thieves.

BBC, 7 May 2009

Two men were arrested in **Frampton**, Dorset, after reports a man was threatened in an incident involving firearms. No shots were fired but firearms were recovered. One of the men holds a current firearm certificate.

Sunderland Echo, 6 May 2009

A stretch limousine may have been shot at with an **airgun** in **Hendon**, Sunderland. A side window was shattered causing thousands of pounds of damage.

Eastern Daily Press, 6 May 2009

Nadeem Nowrung, 18, dressed up in special forces army kit and carried what looked like a machine gun as he attended lessons at a college in **King's Lynn**, Norfolk. He also carried an imitation Browning pistol. A teacher alerted police and made him put his guns away. Police found cross bows, a ball bearing gun and a hand grenade at his home. He admitted being in possession of **imitation firearms** and was sentenced to 120 hours unpaid community work. The judge said "It beggars belief that anybody with the remotest amount of sense could do this". The incident occurred just days after a school shooting in Germany.

Coventry Telegraph, 6 May 2009

A 16-year-old boy was shot in the face when an **airgun** went off. He was examining the revolver-type weapon with a friend at an address in **Bulkington**, Warwickshire, when the gun went off. A pellet was fired into the boy's chin. Police have issued a warning about the dangers of playing with guns.

BBC, 6 May 2009

A second man was shot in **Luton**, Bedfordshire, in 24 hours. The victim was shot in the leg and was stable in hospital. It was later revealed that he had been the victim of carjackers (*BBC*, 7 May 2009).

BBC, 6 May 2009

A man was in a serious condition in hospital after he was shot in the back in **Luton**, Bedfordshire. It is thought that the victim had been at a party at an address in the road when the incident occurred.

BBC, 6 May 2009

A WPC was among seven people arrested on suspicion of handling stolen goods following a series of raids in **south-east London** in which items including a **stun gun**, police radio and suspected controlled drugs were seized.

This is Wiltshire, 5 May 2009

Three men, two of whom were teenagers, were released on police bail after being arrested in connection with an incident at a convenience store in **Staverton**, Wiltshire. An **airgun** was pulled on a resident inside the shop but he grabbed the barrel and wrestled the youth to the ground (*Sun*, 12 May 2009). The men were all arrested on suspicion of attempted robbery.

Evening Telegraph (Peterborough), 5 May 2009

Police carrying weapons surrounded a group of youngsters in **Dogsthorpe**, Peterborough, after worried members of the public spotted them with a gun in a garden. The weapon turned out to be an **air rifle** which was confiscated and will now be destroyed. Police have repeated a warning that any resident brandishing a weapon risked armed police being called to the scene.

BBC, 5 May 2009

Two men have been seriously injured in shooting incidents in County Durham, though it is unclear whether they were one related incident or two separate crimes. One of the men required emergency surgery for a wound to his groin after emergency services were called to **Stanley**. Two hours later another man attended the same hospital with arm wounds and is awaiting further surgery. He has been arrested on suspicion of violent disorder. Both men are said to be in a stable condition (*BBC*, 6 May 2009). Two men handed themselves in to police over the shooting and were held on suspicion of attempted murder (*BBC*, 8 May 2009).

Daily Mail, 4 May 2009

A woman is recovering in hospital after being shot by her husband. She was walking with him near **Woodbridge**, Suffolk, when he stumbled down a rabbit hole and the **shotgun** he was carrying went off. She was hit in the ankle.

Boston Standard, 4 May 2009

A speed camera on the A52 at **Leverton**, Lincolnshire, has been fired at with an **airgun**.

BBC, 4 May 2009

A man suffered a minor gunshot wound and two others sustained knife injuries in a street fight outside **Manor House** tube station in north London. The man who was shot remains in hospital in a stable condition.

BBC, 3 May 2009

Two men who went to a meeting about a second-hand vehicle in **Guildford**, Surrey, were attacked with an iron bar and a gun and slightly injured.

BBC, 3 May 2009

A robber armed with a handgun threatened the staff of a shop in **South Shields**, Tyneside. No-one was hurt but the man escaped with a quantity of money and cigarettes.

Milton Keynes Citizen, 1 May 2009

A teenager wielding a gun caused a cyclist to fall off his bicycle in **Milton Keynes**. The teenager raised his hand to waist height and appeared to fire the gun at him. Police have not established if the gun was real or a **replica**.

Keighley Times, 1 May 2009

A man has been arrested on suspicion of supplying class A drugs and possessing a firearm following raids in **Keighley**, West Yorkshire.

Coventry Evening Telegraph, 1 May 2009

A cyclist was shot in the leg with an **airgun** as he cycled along a canal towpath between **Radford Semele** and **Offchurch** in Warwickshire. The victim had to undergo surgery in hospital.

BBC, 1 May 2009

A man has been shot dead outside **Wandsworth** Prison, south London. It is believed the man who died was leaving the prison after visiting an inmate. At least four shots were fired in the incident. Four men have been arrested in connection with the shooting (*BBC*, 3 May 2009).

SCOTLAND

Evening Times, 27 May 2009

Mail deliveries have been halted on a street in **Barrhead**, East Renfrewshire, after a postman was shot with an **airgun**. The victim is thought to have lost a tooth and suffered an injury to his eyebrow and had to be treated in hospital.

BBC, 27 May 2009

Russell Steele armed himself with an **air rifle** and ordered a neighbour in **Perth** to stop his DIY. He had asked the man to stop working but when he refused Steele picked up the unloaded gun. He admitted possessing a firearm with intent to make his neighbour believe unlawful violence would be used against him in August 2008. He was ordered to carry out 300 hours of community service.

BBC, 25 May 2009

A large haul of weapons and ammunition was recovered from the River North Esk near the village of **St Cyrus**, Aberdeenshire. Most of the weapons date back to World War I and World War II and may have come from a dumped collection. Police are keeping an open mind on the find.

BBC, 22 May 2009

A security van was held up at gunpoint in **Craigmarloch**, Cumbernauld. Two men threatened security guards with what appeared to be firearms and made off with a five figure sum of cash.

BBC, 22 May 2009

Two men attempted to hijack a car when the owner slowed down at traffic lights in **Motherwell** in January 2009. Robert Blakeway asked for directions and Alan Lynn slid into the front passenger seat and put a pistol to the victim's head. They demanded money and, instead of driving to his home, the driver attempted to drive to the police station. However, he saw a police car and attracted the attention of the officers. Blakeway and Lynn ran away and were caught. The gun was a **carbon dioxide-powered pistol**. Both Blakeway and Lynn pleaded guilty to a charge of abduction and robbery and Lynn admitted having a firearm with intent to make two police constables would be used against them and also breaching the Firearms Act by possessing the weapon after serving a long jail sentence. Sentencing was deferred.

Paisley Daily Express, 21 May 2009

Armed police were alerted after a security guard had challenged a man carrying a gun in the grounds of a luxury hotel in **Bishopton**, Renfrewshire. The police found a van parked a few miles from the hotel ground and an **air rifle**, believed to have been loaded, was discovered. A man was being questioned.

Evening Express, 21 May 2009

Aaron Mackie has admitted behaving in a culpable and reckless manner and endangering a teenager. He fired an **airgun** at a 14-year-old girl in **Aberdeen** in March 2008, leaving her injured. Pellets hit the girl on her head and body. Mackie is due back in court next month.

BBC, 21 May 2009

Adam Busby from **Paisley** has admitted sending **shotgun cartridges** and threatening letters to politicians, including Scotland's First Minister Alex Salmond and Mike Rumbles MSP. He rang journalists to say the packages were the work of the Scottish National Liberation Army. He admitted breach of the peace charges and a firearms offence. Busby will be sentenced next month.

Northern Scot, 19 May 2009

An **airgun** was fired towards a man as he walked near a woodland area of **Dufftown**, Moray. He was not injured in the incident which is being investigated by the police.

Scotsman, 18 May 2009

A man threatened staff with a **double-barrelled shotgun** at a bookmakers in **Duddingston Park South**, Edinburgh, before escaping with about £4000. The robber and an accomplice drove away on a motorbike.

BBC, 16 May 2009

A man is in hospital after being shot and injured by the police at the railway station in **Carfin**, North Lanarkshire. The police had been called after a report that a man was in possession of a firearm on the track. A man was taken to hospital where he was said to be in a serious but stable condition.

BBC, 8 May 2009

A man escaped with thousands of pounds of cash after a raid on a bookmakers shop in **Glasgow**. He threatened staff with what appeared to be a gun and demanded cash.

Ayrshire Post, 8 May 2009

A man threatened staff at a store in **Ayr** with what appeared to be an **airgun**. He demanded money before making off empty handed.

BBC, 6 May 2009

A 14-year-old boy has been charged after police were called to deal with a gun incident at a school in **Aberdeen**. A **replica weapon** is believed to have been discovered.

BBC, 6 May 2009

Mark McCracken has admitted assault and robbery at a shop in **Dennistoun**, Glasgow, in June 2008. He brandished a handgun when he snatched about £60 from the till and ran off but was caught when he returned to buy a can of juice moments later. Sentencing was deferred.

WALES

Daily Post, 29 May 2009

In March 2009 Daniel Skinner forced his way into a neighbour's home in **Flint** and pointed an **air rifle** at the face of a young woman. The gun did not have a butt but all the working parts were present. Skinner was demanding the whereabouts of a man whilst pointing the weapon directly at the victim's forehead. He admitted affray, assault, possessing a firearm and breaching his Asbo, as well as a set of similar charges in relation to an incident in which he was armed with a knife.

BBC, 29 May 2009

Kevin Phythian, Philip Phythian have admitted robbery following a hold-up at a supermarket in **Old Colwyn**, Conwy, in March 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). A third man denies robbery. Keith Phythian has admitted possessing an imitation firearm, a **blank firing pistol**, with intent to commit robbery, a charge denied by the other two men. All three denied a charge of aggravated burglary at a house in **Colwyn Bay** with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm.

BBC, 22 May 2009

A knife-wielding robber threatened to get a gun when he was pelted with carrots during a robbery at a shop in **Talwrn**, Anglesey. Kevin Jones was jailed for three years and four months after he admitted robbery.

Evening Leader, 18 May 2009

A man is due to appear in court charged with possessing an **imitation firearm** after an incident at a pub in **Flint**. He has also been charged with criminal damage.

BBC, 13 May 2009

A man has been arrested on suspicion of committing two double murders in Pembrokeshire in the 1980s. The victims had been shot. Two holidaymakers were murdered with a **shotgun** on the coastal path at **Little Haven** in June 1989 and a brother and sister were killed in December 1985 at a house near **Milford Haven** which was then set on fire.

BBC, 9 May 2009

Workmen resurfacing a road at **Llanerfyl**, Powys, have received threats and verbal abuse because of the delays to motorists, one of whom said he would use an **air rifle** to shoot them.

BBC, 7 May 2009

Ricky Connon from **Broughton**, Flintshire, has admitted possessing a firearm with intent to cause people to believe that unlawful violence would be used against them. He fired an **airgun** out of his window when children hurled missiles at his flat in March 2009. He was given a suspended 40 week jail sentence and made subject of a two year supervision order.

Shropshire Star, 6 May 2009

An **airgun** pellet was fired at a passing car in **Llanymynech**, Powys. No-one was hurt but police said they were "relieved" the incident was not more serious. The car door was damaged.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Tewkesbury ADMAG, 28 May 2009

A woman has been left distraught after her cat was shot with an **air rifle** in **Evesham**, Worcestershire. She found her cat with a massive lump on the side of his body and thought he had developed an aggressive form of cancer but an x-ray revealed an air rifle pellet embedded in his rib muscles. He was lucky that it did not go into his lungs.

This is Nottingham, 26 May 2009

A man shot dead a bull terrier after it attacked his own dog on a walk in **Sutton-in-Ashfield**, Nottinghamshire. The police are investigating several aspects of the incident including the use of the firearm and why the bull terrier was not under control. The owner of the rifle had a firearms licence.

The Star, 25 May 2009

A couple have been left devastated by the death of their pet cat after he was shot at with an **airgun** close to his home in **Cudworth**, South Yorkshire. A pellet tore through his side and into his stomach and he had to be put to sleep.

The Star, 21 May 2009

Two boys were arrested after residents in **Staincross**, South Yorkshire, told the police that birds had been shot in woods. A 16-year-old appeared in court charged with possessing a loaded **air weapon** in a public place. He received a 24-hour community payback order. The second boy, aged 15, received an official caution.

Stroud News & Journal, 20 May 2009

A cat was left with an **air rifle** pellet lodged three inches deep in his leg after he was shot in **Rodborough**, Gloucestershire. His owner first thought he had been run over, but vets found the pellet.

Forres Gazette, 20 May 2009

A cat has had its leg amputated after it was shot with an **airgun** in **Findhorn**, Moray. The pellet shattered its right back leg.

Southern Daily Echo, 19 May 2009

A cat owner from **Park Gate**, Hampshire, is offering a reward to catch the person who left her pet fighting for his life after he was shot with an **air rifle**. The cat was found crying in pain with a gaping hole in his chest. Vets confirmed he had been shot by an airgun and amputated his front leg. Another cat has a broken leg after being shot in **Thornhill**, Southampton, a week earlier.

Rutland Times, 18 May 2009

A cat has been shot with an **air rifle** in **Oakham**, Rutland. His owner found him crying in pain and was horrified to see x-rays of a pellet lodged near his spine. The cat may never walk properly again, despite vet bills of more than £600. He is the second cat to suffer being shot in the area within the last six weeks. In the earlier incident a cat was shot in the leg.

This is Hull & East Riding, 15 May 2009

Two separate **airgun** shootings occurred in one day in **Hull**. A young cat was millimetres away from dying after a pellet went through its rib cage and liver before lodging in its stomach. The animal was found in west Hull. Another cat was shot in **Cottingham** and had been brought to the same vets by its owner after its shoulder bone had been shattered by an airgun pellet.

This is Derbyshire, 14 May 2009

A cat has been shot at close range with an **air rifle** in **Alvaston**, Derby. He was seen to be bleeding, and when his fur was pulled back a small metal pellet was found lodged in his shoulder. His owner believes he's had a lucky escape.

Tavistock Times Gazette, 14 May 2009

A cat was shot with an **air rifle** in **Tavistock**, Devon. The pellet burst through the animal's intestine and he is lucky to be alive. The full extent of the injuries and pellet were only discovered when the cat was taken to the vets.

Wigan Observer, 13 May 2009

Teenagers who have been drinking are terrorising bailiffs and firing **airgun** pellets at wildlife at fishing ponds in **Wigan**, Greater Manchester. One gander was shot with an air rifle recently.

Evening Courier, 13 May 2009

A dog let off its lead while it was being walked in **Grimsby**, Lincolnshire, was shot with an **airgun**. Its owner noticed blood on its back and felt something beneath the skin. The pellet was removed by surgery at a vets.

The Argus, 13 May 2009

A cat owner, who is also a vet, performed life-saving surgery on her own pet after he was shot in the face in **Hove**, Sussex. An **air rifle** pellet had shattered teeth and damaged the roof of her cat's mouth before becoming lodged in the base of his tongue.

Express & Star, 12 May 2009

An **air rifle** sniper is believed to have been responsible for killing a cat and injuring another belonging to a family in **Cookley**, Worcestershire. Investigations are being carried out by the police and RSPCA.

This is Staffordshire, 8 May 2009

Vets have had to remove a cat's eye after she was shot in the face with an **air rifle** in **Whitehill**, Staffordshire. Her life is now hanging in the balance as the vets were unable to remove the pellet which had become lodged in her throat. The paper has listed six other woundings to cats in the area in six months, four of which, in **Tunstall**, **Hanford**, **Kidsgrove** and **Cheadle**, were recorded on this website. The other two cats were shot in **Wolstanton** and **Chesterton** (*The Sentinel*, 9 May 2009).

Chad (Mansfield), 7 May 2009

Two cats needed treatment at a vets after they were shot with an **air rifle** in **Huthwaite**, Nottinghamshire. These incidents follow four others reported to the police this year which resulted in the death of one cat, another having to have its eye removed and injuries to the other two. All of the cats were shot with a .22 air rifle.

Free Press, 6 May 2009

A cat was shot in the face by an **air rifle** in **Pontypool**, South Wales, and may have lost the sight in one eye. The pellet narrowly missed his eyeball and hit the corner of the eye socket, then went through the top of his nose and into his palate.

Lakeland Echo, 5 May 2009

A cat has been shot dead with an **air rifle** in **Overton**, Lancashire. It was hit in the head. The woman who discovered the dead animal reported that a number of other cats have been shot in the area.

Evening Leader, 5 May 2009

A cat belonging to a pensioner has been shot dead from close range with an **airgun** in **Coedpoeth** near Wrexham. The pet was found unable to stand and taken to a vet but could not be saved.



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