

## **NOVEMBER 2009 - SUMMARY**

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - There were two **fatal shooting** incidents during November. Both victims were male, one shot dead in a street in Kennington (south London) and the other at a nightclub in Bilston (West Midlands) (another person was shot and injured, three men have been held in connection with this murder).
- Fifteen other victims were **injured** in shooting attacks in:
  - Greater Manchester (1) - a man was shot four times in the legs in an attack at a house in Bury (four men have been arrested)
  - London (3) - two people, one aged 15, were injured in separate shootings in De Beauvoir, and a man was shot when his motorbike was stolen at his home in Kingsbury
  - Merseyside (3) - a man was shot in the back in Fazakerley, another victim was shot in the leg in Tuebrook, and a man was injured in a shotgun attack in Belle Vale
  - Nottinghamshire (2) - a man was shot in the leg in Rise Park, and another received injuries to his legs, buttocks and lower back in a probable shotgun attack in Highbury Vale
  - Scotland (1) - a man was shot in the leg in a drive-by shooting in Uplawmoor (East Renfrewshire)
  - South Yorkshire (1) - a man was shot in the head in Wombwell (eight people were arrested and bailed and one man has been charged with grievous bodily harm with intent)
  - West Midlands (1) - a man was shot and injured in the double shooting in Bilston which resulted in one fatality (see above)
  - West Yorkshire (3) - three men were shot in two separate incidents in Bradford, one at a nightclub involving a shotgun (one man has been arrested) and the other outside a curry house
- A man armed with a BB gun was injured in the arm when he was shot by a **police marksman** in a supermarket in Canterbury (Kent) - he has since been charged with the murder of a woman who was found strangled and with possessing a gun with intent to cause fear of violence.
- Two men were injured during an **organised shoot** near Dunning (Perthshire) when a shotgun was accidentally discharged.
- At least Seven other people, including three teenagers, were injured in shootings with **BB guns** or **airguns**:
  - Cambridgeshire - a man was shot with an air rifle whilst walking along a street in Easton Socon
  - Gloucestershire - a 13-year-old boy was shot twice in Cheltenham with a BB gun (two other teenagers were arrested)
  - Merseyside - a man was shot in the stomach with an air pistol in Southport
  - Norfolk - an elderly woman was shot in the head with an airgun at a car boot sale at Costessey - two men, believed to be a stallholder and a would-be purchaser, were arrested
  - Somerset - a 13-year-old boy was hit in the leg with what was believed to be a BB gun pellet in Clevedon
  - South Yorkshire - a taxi driver was shot with an airgun in his cab in Highfield (Sheffield)
  - Wales - an 18-year-old girl was shot with a pellet gun on a fairground ride in Llan Ffestiniog (Gwynedd)

- A man from Invergowrie (Angus) has appeared in court to face allegations that he repeatedly shot his wife and two children with a BB gun over a period of three years.
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults - As Gun Control Network has frequently highlighted many of the weapons used in these crimes are likely to be imitations, as is often apparent from the subsequent charges (see below). Although many weapons are described as handguns this can be solely on the basis of their appearance and many of them will be a blank-firing pistols, a BB guns or air pistols.**
- There were robberies and attempted robberies allegedly involving guns at an **Amusement Arcade** in Walton (Essex) (two men were armed with a shotgun); **Banks and Post Offices** in Southport (Merseyside) (a man has admitted this robbery, in which an imitation firearm was used, and a number of other robberies at banks from nine years ago), Tring (Hertfordshire) (toy gun), Preston (Lancashire) (handgun), Uddingston (North Lanarkshire) and Manningham (Bradford) (handgun); **Bookmakers** in Woodside (Glasgow), Gossops Green (Sussex) (imitation revolver), Northampton (shotgun), Bradford (handgun), Worthing (West Sussex) (pistol), Blakenhall (West Midlands) (revolver) and Slough (Berkshire); **Offices** in Burnage (Manchester) and Gloucester; **Pubs and Restaurants** in Brixton and Clapham (south London) (the raids are believed to be linked), Gravesend (Kent) (handgun), Braintree (Essex) (handgun) and Liverpool; **Shops** in Bishop's Cleeve (Gloucestershire), Hamilton (Lanarkshire) (one man might have been responsible for two robberies), Lockwood (West Yorkshire) (a 15-year-old has been arrested), Fairweather Green (Bradford) (handgun), Tooting and Streatham (both in south London), Lees (Greater Manchester) (handgun) and Westy (Cheshire) (handgun); **a Travel Agents** in Muswell Hill (north London).
- In two **House Robberies** in Greater Manchester four masked men armed with a stun gun, knife and axe stole items from a home in Blackley and another gang handcuffed and threatened a couple in Salford (eight people have been arrested).
- A **Security Man** was robbed of a cash box at gunpoint in Stanford-le-Hope (Essex)
- A gunman stole a **Motorbike** at the home of its owner in Kingsbury (north west London) - the victim was shot in the leg (see above).
- A **Van** was stopped near Heathrow Airport (London) and stolen by a gang of armed robbers armed with a stun gun - the van was found abandoned and its contents taken.
- In two **Street Robberies**, a man had his laptop stolen by a man armed with a ball-bearing gun at a bus stop in Long Eaton (Derbyshire), and a couple were robbed at gunpoint whilst walking to a dance class in Quarry Bank (West Midlands).
- **Other Incidents** - Shots were fired during a number of other incidents:
  - Bristol - two shots were fired from a shotgun during a raid on a building in Bishopsworth (Bristol) (a man was arrested)
  - County Durham - shots were fired at a house and a car with a shotgun in Consett (two men have been arrested)
  - Lincolnshire - a firearm was discharged during an armed break-in in Grimsby (four men have been charged with aggravated burglary and possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life)
  - Merseyside - windows of a house were shot out in West Derby, shots were fired in a street in Huyton (a man has been charged with possessing an illegal firearm and ammunition), homes were shot at in Page Moss, and a car was damaged by shots fired from another vehicle at a busy road junction

- London - shots were fired at a shop in Finsbury Park, a café in Holloway, outside a pub in Hackney, and from a car in Lower Clapton
  - Shropshire - a firearm was discharged during an incident in Hollinswood (Telford) (three men were being questioned on suspicion of conspiracy to commit murder)
- A man has been accused of possessing a shotgun at his home in Weston-super-Mare, with intent to cause a debt collector violence.
- A youth pointed a handgun at an 11-year-old boy in Southsea (Hampshire). Two men were arrested in Bideford (Devon) after police received reports that two men had been threatened with a gun.
- A man has been charged with possession of an illegal firearm after a gun was thrown from a car in Scarisbrick (Merseyside).
- A man from Blackwood (Gwent) has been charged with possessing an improvised muzzle-loading gun as well as explosive materials and a terrorist document.
- There were also incidents in which a gun was reported but no weapon found:
  - A college in Enfield (north London) was evacuated and five people arrested after a student was reported to have a gun
  - A man was arrested after armed police surrounded a flat in Ross-on-Wye (Herefordshire)
  - A gun is alleged to have been produced during a brawl at an amateur football match in Speke (Liverpool)
  - A man who claimed to have firearms was arrested at a house in Millfield (Peterborough)
- A stun gun was found at the scene of a disturbance in East Ham (east London).
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns** - Besides those incidents which resulted in injury (see above) there were further incidents involving airguns and imitation weapons. As noted above they were probably used in many of the **armed robberies**, and this was certainly so for those reported from Southport (Merseyside), Long Eaton (Derbyshire) and Gossops Green (Sussex). Four men have been charged with conspiracy to rob, possession of an imitation firearm in a public place, possession of a prohibited weapon (a stun gun) and possession of an imitation firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence after an incident in Hadleigh (Essex). A man was charged with two counts of having an imitation firearm with intention to commit crime following robberies at a petrol station and bookmakers in Bedford in October.
- Guns were fired at **vehicles** in the following incidents:
  - a car was peppered with air weapon pellets in Ulverston (Cumbria)
  - a number of vehicles were targeted around Haughley (Suffolk) with a paintball gun
  - a bus was hit and three windows shattered in Lincoln when it was attacked with a gas-powered BB gun
  - a taxi was shot with an air rifle as the driver dropped off a fare in Stannington (Sheffield)
- The following were damaged probably by shots fired from airguns:
  - a pub window in Eye (Cambridgeshire) - there has been other damage in the locality
  - a window at a pensioner's house in Oldham (Lancashire)
  - windows at a library in Winsford (Cheshire)
  - windows and outside lights in Rastrick (West Yorkshire)
- Two people were threatened with a gun, reported to have been an airgun, at their home in Hatfield (Hertfordshire) (a man has been arrested). A man from Milford Haven (Pembrokeshire) has been charged with possession of an imitation firearm - he is alleged to have assaulted a woman and caused her to believe that unlawful violence would be used against another.
- It has been reported that youths have used a ball-bearing gun to fire at younger children in Wyke (West Yorkshire). A group of youths threatened to shoot an

ambulance crew with BB guns whilst they were responding to a call in Bolton (Lancashire).

- A man armed with an air rifle chased youths who were throwing eggs at passing cars in Stourport (Worcestershire). A man brandishing a suspected imitation firearm chased another man through streets in Stamford Hill (north London).
  - Two men were arrested on suspicion of being in possession of an imitation firearm after they were allegedly seen with a gun in Leeds. A man was charged with possession of an imitation firearm after being seen with a handgun in Grantham (Lincolnshire).
  - One of two men arrested following a shotgun attack in Consett (County Durham) (see above) has been charged with two other offences after an air weapon was found at his home.
  
  - **Guns Recoveries and Thefts** - Guns were found during searches in which **drugs** were also recovered in Kearsley (Lancashire) (a sawn-off shotgun and a handgun) (a man and a woman were arrested), Pennywell and South Hylton (Sunderland) (two air weapons) (two women and a man were arrested), West Norfolk (a man was charged with possession of a shotgun without a licence), Warrington (Cheshire) (a stun gun), various addresses in Lancashire (imitation firearm), Halton Moor (Leeds) (a number of air weapons and shotgun cartridges), Manningham (Bradford) (a handgun), and various addresses on Merseyside (a shotgun).
  - Merseyside Police reported recovering 8 handguns, 5 shotguns and 1 rifle plus many rounds of ammunition during the last month in Norris Green, Croxteth and Huyton. A gun was among items confiscated by police investigating counterfeiting at a market in Hull. A decommission AK47 rifle was found by police during raids in Bradford (a man was arrested).
  - Customs officials found eight handguns and 200 rounds of ammunition in a lorry arriving at Dover (Kent) (a man has been charged with attempted smuggling).
  - A gun and ammunition were discovered by a member of the public in Knightswood (Glasgow).
  - There were **thefts** of guns reported from Annan (Dumfriesshire) (shotguns and ammunition), Hayling Island (Hampshire) (a replica assault rifle), Hadlow Down (Sussex) (2 shotguns, 2 air rifles), Streatham (south London) (a licensed shotgun was taken after its owner left it on his garden wall and was not aware of its loss for 7 hours), Penarth (South Glamorgan) (an air rifle), and Beechingstoke (Wiltshire) (a shotgun).
  - A man has been accused of stealing shotguns and other items from a property in Chesterfield (Derbyshire) earlier this year.
  
  - **Incidents Involving Animals** - More **cats** were the target of airgun attacks reported during November. These occurred in Bristol (two cats have been shot), Cheshire, County Durham, Dorset, Dumfriesshire, Essex, Herefordshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Nottingham, Plymouth, and Surrey. Another cat from Walsall (West Midlands) was shot twice with a pellet gun.
  - Two **swans** died after being shot with airgun pellets at a country park in Sunderland and another swan was shot dead at a nature reserve at Beighton Marsh (Sheffield).
  - Two men could be facing jail for shooting nine protected kittiwakes with an air rifle at Marsden (Tyne & Wear) - they pleaded guilty to the intentional killing of wild birds.
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- **Convictions** - A man was given a minimum twenty year sentence after being found guilty of murdering a woman in Bury St Edmonds (Suffolk) by shooting her with a bolt gun. Bolt guns are used for the routine stunning of livestock and are no longer subject to firearms legislation. The offender worked in a slaughterhouse.
- A man convicted of a fatal shooting in East Ham in 2001 will serve a minimum of 33 years.
- Two men, one a teenager, whose victim was shot four times in Wolverhampton, were found guilty of attempted murder (sentencing was adjourned).
- Two teenagers were sent to a young offenders' institute for 4½ and 3½ years for being part of a gang who attacked and shot a man in Croxteth (Liverpool).
- A man who injured two people with a reactivated pistol in a shooting in Huddersfield (West Yorkshire) has admitted two offences of unlawful wounding and possessing a gun and ammunition with intent to cause fear of violence and has been told he will face many years behind bars.
- A father and son have pleaded guilty to conspiring to kidnap after they took a woman and her child hostage for 24 hours - they were reported to have been armed with a handgun and at least two shotguns when they broke into the victims' house in Skipton (North Yorkshire).
- A man has pleaded guilty to an armed robbery at a service station in St Albans (Hertfordshire) in which he used a gun. Two men who committed a string of robberies including one on a bookmakers in Gipsy Hill (south London) in which staff believed they had a gun have been jailed for 11 years and 10 years 6 months.
- A gang of men have been convicted of drug and firearms offences - an arsenal of weapons had been found at a flat belonging to one of them in Highridge Green (Bristol).
- A teenager caught with a firearm and ammunition whilst dealing drugs in Stonebridge Estate (north west London) has been found guilty of firearms and drug offences. A man from Hayling Island (Hampshire) found with a gun, CS gas and cocaine has been jailed for six years for various drug offences and two counts of possession of a firearm.
- A man caught with a loaded gun at a railway station in Abbey Wood (south east London) was found guilty of possessing a firearm with ammunition with intent to endanger life and jailed for 9 years.
- A man from north west London who persuaded a woman to stash two loaded guns failed in his appeal to reduce his 7 year sentence for possession of a prohibited firearm and two counts of possessing ammunition without a certificate.
- A man who tried to sell a loaded gun which looked like a pen in Rusholme (Greater Manchester) pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm and ammunition and was jailed for 5 years. Two men seen to exchange a bag containing a gun in Small Heath (Birmingham) were jailed for 6½ and 6 years after pleading guilty to possessing a prohibited weapon, a silencer and ammunition.
- A man who manufactured homemade guns and made and stockpiled nail and ball bearing bombs at his home in Batley (West Yorkshire) has admitted a number of offences including three counts of manufacturing prohibited weapons, four counts of possession of prohibited weapons and one of possession of ammunition without certificate - he is awaiting sentence.
- A man was jailed for 4½ years after being found guilty of possessing an illegal gun at his home in High Wycombe (Buckinghamshire). Two men, one aged 17, who held guns for a drugs gang in Kensington (Liverpool) were given 8 and 3 year sentences. An ex-police officer from Pocklington (East Yorkshire) has admitted conspiracy to launder money and possession of a weapon (a semi-automatic pistol) and ammunition.
- A man who had a rifle without a certificate at his home in Bristol and had tried to purchase a stun gun from the USA has been given an 8 month sentence and a 150 hour community work order.

- A number of men have been sentenced or are awaiting sentencing for offences involving **shotguns**:
  - Two men involved with a gang who raided a bank in Wigan (Lancashire) in which the raiders were armed with shotguns have been jailed.
  - A man who threatened a shopkeeper in Gateshead (Tyneside) with a sawn-off shotgun during an attempted robbery has been found guilty.
  - A teenager who shot at parked vehicles in Lostwithiel (Cornwall) with a shotgun has been sent to a young offenders' institution for 16 months.
  - Two men have been jailed for 15 and 12 years for a robbery at the home of a couple in Rugby and possession of a firearm.
  - A man found with a shotgun hidden in a wardrobe at his parents' home in Wigan (Lancashire) has been jailed for 2 years.
  - A man from Hemel Hempstead (Hertfordshire) who was caught in a police drugs operation has been jailed for 18 months after pleading guilty to a drug offences and possessing a shotgun without a certificate.
  - A man has admitted possessing a pump action, smooth bore shotgun with a short barrel found on a boat in anchored at Brixham (Devon).
  - A man admitted possessing a shotgun without a licence and drugs offences after a raid in Middlesbrough.
  - A man from Leeds who admitted a number of offences including selling a shotgun has been jailed for 8 years.
  - A man who was jailed for 5 years after a shotgun had been found in his bedsit in Penrith (Cumbria) has failed to have his sentence cut on appeal.
  - A man found with a broken down shotgun and revolver at his home in St Ann's (Nottingham) was jailed for 5 years for drug offences and storing firearms.
  - An ex-soldier who found a sawn-off shotgun in a bin liner in his garden in Merstham (Surrey) and then handed it to the police was found guilty of possessing a firearm - the jury was told that his apparently honest intent was irrelevant.
  - A man who stole shotguns from a house in Shefford (Bedfordshire) pleaded guilty to two burglaries and asked for 14 similar offences to be taken into consideration and was jailed for a total of 4 years and 9 months.
- A man who threatened to get a shotgun and shoot people in Harleston (Norfolk) has admitted threatening behaviour and other offences including handling a stolen air rifle and been given a suspended 12 month prison sentence and a 12 month supervision order. A man who threatened to buy a gun and shoot three members of the community council in Selkirk has been jailed for 16 months for breach of the peace.
- A man who twice broke into the same house in Willersley (Herefordshire) and stole ammunition and an antique gun has been given a 12-month suspended jail sentence and was ordered to pay compensation to the owner.
- The following cases involved **stun guns**:
  - A man from Torquay has pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited weapon (a non-working stun gun in the form of a torch) and possessing drugs and was given a 12-month community order
  - A man and a woman were given 5½ years in jail and a 12 month suspended sentence for drug offences and possessing a prohibited weapon at their home in Hartlepool
  - A woman found with drugs and a stun gun at her home in Clayton-le-Moors (Lancashire) has been jailed for four years
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns (Court Cases)** - A man who admitted possessing an air rifle with intent to cause fear of violence after he pointed it at two men in Grimsby was jailed for 70 weeks.

- Two men who wielded an imitation firearm to help kidnap a student in Loughborough (Leicestershire) has failed to have their sentences of 11 and 11½ years reduced on appeal.
- A man who brandished a blank-firing revolver in a nightclub in Southport (Merseyside) was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment after pleading guilty. Another offender who brandished a replica gun at a fast food outlet in St Budeaux (Plymouth) has been banned from every takeaway in the city and put under curfew.
- A man has admitted affray and possession of a firearm without a certificate after an incident in Blyth (Nottinghamshire) following which the police found four air weapons which needed certificates at the man's home in Harworth - he was given a suspended 6 month prison sentence.
- A man seen with an air rifle when he barricaded himself inside his home in Blackpool (Lancashire) has admitted affray and given a suspended 8 month prison sentence and 18 months supervision.
- A man who confronted two youths with an airsoft replica rifle in a street in Blackhall (Edinburgh) has admitted having a firearm in his possession and been fined £367. A teenager was found guilty of two counts of ABH following incidents at a camp near Strangways (Wiltshire) in which a replica assault rifle was fired and two other teenagers were shot, although the jury failed to reach a verdict on a firearms charge - he was jailed for 2½ years.
- A teenager from Scarborough (North Yorkshire) who sold an imitation firearm to undercover police and explained how to modify it to fire live ammunition has been sent to a young offenders' institution for 8 months.
- A man jailed for 10 years and 8 months for blackmail, possession of an imitation firearm and possession of a heroin with intent to supply who went to his victim's home in Whitehaven (Cumbria) with a gun has failed to have his sentence reduced.
- There were a number of convictions for robberies and attempted robberies in which the offenders were armed with imitation firearms, including airguns:
  - A man was jailed for 9 years after pleading guilty to conspiracy to rob and possession of an imitation firearm with intent after carrying out a string of robberies in Dorset and Surrey
  - **Banks** - a man was jailed for 7 years and 9 months after attempting to rob a bank in Redcar (Teesside) whilst armed with a toy handgun; another man who carried out a robbery at a bank in Southport (Merseyside) armed with an imitation firearm has also admitted a number of previous robberies and attempted robberies at banks
  - **Bookmakers** - a man found to have an air pistol and a gas-powered ball bearing gun has admitted robbery at a bookies in Leeds and possessing an imitation handgun and been jailed for 4 years; a man was jailed for 6 years after holding up a bookmakers in Cambridge with an imitation pistol
  - **Shops and Post Offices** - a man who was armed with a BB gun has been jailed for 2 years for a robbery in Inverness; two men who forced another man to carry out a robbery with an imitation pistol in Meir Heath (Staffordshire) had their sentences increased on appeal, the robber's sentence was unchanged at 18 months.
  - **Music Festival** - an 18-year-old has admitted robbery and possessing a firearm with intent to cause violence after threatening a woman with an airgun and stealing her handbag near Silloth (Cumbria)
  - **Streets** - a 13-year-old boy who pointed a ball-bearing gun in the face of a man in Derby has been given an 8-month detention and training order after pleading guilty to two counts of robbery and one count of theft, witness intimidation and possession of an imitation firearm with intent; a 15-year-old from Whyteleafe (Surrey) who shoved an air pistol in his victim's face during a robbery has been given a 12 month detention and training order; a man who used a ball-bearing gun when he attempted to

rob a man in Chapel St Leonards (Lincolnshire) has admitted attempted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm and been jailed for 5 years; an 18-year-old armed with a BB gun who held up a taxi driver in Hartlepool has admitted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm and been sent to a young offenders' institution for 3 years

- Two men who fired an air rifle in a garden in Clitheroe (Lancashire) and damaged neighbouring property have been fined £50 each and one was ordered to pay compensation.
- A man who took a loaded air rifle into woods in Weston-super-Mare (Somerset) has been given a 12 months community order and must complete 100 hours of unpaid work.
- A man who was banned from possessing a firearm as a result of a previous conviction but was found with an air rifle at his home in Hemlington (Teesside) was given a 52 week suspended jail sentence with supervision and a Thinking Skills programme.
- A man who tried to take an air pistol on a plane at Edinburgh Airport has been fined £1,000.
- Two men who simulated a drive-by shooting by driving around Burgess Hill (West Sussex) with part of a pressure washer sticking out of the window like a rifle have admitted a charge of affray - they now face a jail sentence.

## GUN INCIDENTS – NOVEMBER 2009

### ENGLAND

*This is Local London*, 30 November 2009

Wesley Petrie was caught by police carrying a loaded pistol through the railway station at **Abbey Wood**, south east London, in February 2009. He was found guilty of possessing a firearm with ammunition with intent to endanger life and sentenced to nine years in jail.

*Local Guardian*, 30 November 2009

Anthony Perry and Fabian Dawson have been jailed for 11 years and 10 years, six months, respectively for a string of robberies, including an attack on a bookmakers in **Gipsy Hill**, south London, in September 2008 during which Dawson made staff believe he had a gun. Both men had pleaded guilty.

*Evening Gazette*, 30 November 2009

Lee Kirby who was found with a **.22 air rifle** at his home in **Hemlington**, Middlesbrough, pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm within five years of his release from jail. He had received the rifle from a friend in payment for a loan. He was given a 52 week jail sentence suspended for two years with supervision and a Thinking Skills programme.

*Clitheroe Advertiser and Times*, 30 November 2009

Two men were arrested after shooting an **air rifle** at tin cans in a garden in **Clitheroe**, Lancashire, and then aiming at chimney pots and heating vents on nearby homes. One bedroom window was smashed. Carl Gillibrand admitted possession of the air rifle with scope and firing it beyond premises. Stephen Berry admitted the same charges and causing damage to the window. They were both fined £50 with £80 costs and Berry was ordered to pay £150 compensation.

*Telegraph & Argus*, 28 November 2009

A post office manager was pistol whipped during a raid in **Manningham**, Bradford. The attackers were both dressed in burkhas. The victim was hit with the butt of a handgun when he was unable to open a safe and the raiders panicked and fled empty-handed.

*Liverpool Echo*, 28 November 2009

The occupants of a car fired shots at another vehicle at a busy junction in **Liverpool**. The victim crashed into a third vehicle. His car had about nine bullet holes in its side. The assailants' car dove the wrong way along a street to get away. No one was injured during the incidents.

*Huddersfield Daily Examiner*, 28 November 2009

A man is facing jail after admitting keeping an arsenal of home-made weapons at his home in **Batley**, West Yorkshire. Terence Gavan manufactured homemade **shotguns**, pen guns and pistols and made and stockpiled 54 nail and ball bearing bombs. He admitted 22 charges, including six under the Terrorism Act. He admitted three counts of manufacturing prohibited weapons, four counts of possession of prohibited weapons and one count of possession of ammunition without certificate. He will be sentenced in January 2010.

**Bristol Evening Post**, 28 November 2009

James Waithe has been found guilty of possessing firearms with intent to endanger life. He had already been found guilty of conspiring with four other men to supply drugs. Three of the other members of the drugs gang, Craig Rodel, Luke Downes and Luke Brooks also have firearm offences to their names. The gang were armed with three military-issue stun grenades, four rifles, five handguns, a shotgun and ammunition which were found at a flat owned by Waithe in **Highridge Green**, Bristol. Waithe was cleared of six other firearms offences. Sentencing will take place next month.

**yourcanterbury.co.uk**, 27 November 2009

Police shot a man who was seen brandishing a gun in a supermarket in **Canterbury**, Kent. He was hit in the arm but his injury was not believed to be life threatening. A few hours later the police found a woman's body at a flat in the city. The woman is reported to have been the man's girlfriend and is understood to have been strangled to death. The weapon he brandished was a **BB gun** (*Kent News*, 28 November 2009). A man has been charged with murder and possessing a gun with intent to cause fear of violence (*BBC*, 2 December 2009).

**Warrington Guardian**, 27 November 2009

Two men apparently armed with a handgun threatened a shopkeeper in **Westy**, Cheshire, and demanded she open the till.

**Gazette & Herald**, 27 November 2009

A **shotgun** was among items stolen during a burglary at a house in **Beechingstoke**, Wiltshire.

**BBC**, 27 November 2009

Two men carrying what police believe may have been a gun threatened staff and robbed customers at a restaurant in the centre of **Liverpool**. They forced people to hand over valuables including mobile phones and wallets.

**Wembley & Kingsbury Times**, 26 November 2009

A 17-year-old has been found guilty of possession of a firearm and ammunition and conspiracy to supply crack and heroin. He was caught dealing on the **Stonebridge Estate**, north west London, in possession of a loaded handgun. He was one of twelve drug dealers jailed.

**Wembley & Kingsbury Times**, 26 November 2009

Daniel Parara has failed in an appeal against a seven year sentence he received in July 2009. He had admitted possession of a prohibited firearm and two counts of possessing ammunition without a certificate. He had persuaded a woman to stash two loaded guns, a silencer attachment and more than 100 bullets. Dion Douglas was caught with the weapons travelling in a cab near her home in **Neasden**, north west London, in February 2009. She received a five year sentence.

**Oldham Advertiser**, 26 November 2009

A shopworker had a gun pointed at her head in a robbery in **Lees**, Greater Manchester. Two men brandishing a handgun and a knife threatened her with the gun and grabbed the till. The robbers fled with about £300 in cash.

**Maidenhead Advertiser**, 26 November 2009

A bookmakers in **Slough**, Berkshire, has been robbed by armed raiders. Two men threatened staff members with what police think was a handgun.

**Local Guardian**, 26 November 2009

A teenage gang robbed a shop in **Streatham**, south London. A shopworker had a gun held to his throat as £300 was taken from the till.

**Lincolnshire Echo**, 26 November 2009

A bus driver was left shocked after a drive-by attack with a **gas-powered BB gun** in **Lincoln** which smashed three of the vehicle's windows. Three teenagers were arrested in connection with the incident.

**The Leader**, 26 November 2009

Two men who wielded a fake gun to help kidnap a student in a bid to get his £20,000 tuition fees have failed to reduce their sentences on appeal. Sin Jung Lin and Xiao Bo Yan had both admitted possessing an **imitation firearm**, three counts of false imprisonment, one of blackmail, two of robbery and one of kidnap. They were jailed for 11 years and 11-and-a-half years respectively in August 2008. The incident had taken place at the victim's home in **Loughborough**, Leicestershire.

**Express & Star**, 26 November 2009

Two men burst into a bookmakers in **Blakenhall**, West Midlands. One of them pointed a revolver-style handgun at the duty manager and a customer was threatened. The manager handed over the contents of the cash register, just over £400.

**East Anglian Daily Times**, 26 November 2009

A number of vehicles on the A14 around **Haughley**, Suffolk, have been targeted with a **paintball gun**.

**BBC**, 26 November 2009

A man is recovering from injuries to his legs, buttocks and lower back after being shot in **Highbury Vale**, Nottinghamshire. The man has now been released from hospital. Police believe the injuries were caused by pellets from a **shotgun** (*This is Nottingham*, 26 November 2009).

**BBC**, 26 November 2009

Darren Daisley and Keiron Snape have been jailed for 12 years and 15 years respectively after a robbery on a couple in **Rugby**, Warwickshire, in February 2008. Daisley pleaded guilty to robbery and possession of a firearm and Snape was found guilty of the same offences. The men had been armed with a **sawn-off shotgun** (*Coventry Telegraph*, 27 November 2009).

**BBC**, 26 November 2009

Two men, one armed a pistol, stole cash from a bookmakers in **Worthing**, West Sussex. A worker was forced to empty the till.

**BBC**, 26 November 2009

A man was shot in the head in an incident in **Wombwell**, South Yorkshire. Eight people, including two women were arrested on suspicion of attempted murder and have been bailed. One man has been charged with grievous bodily harm with intent. The victim is recovering in hospital.

**Yorkshire Post**, 25 November 2009

A man was arrested following raids in Undercliffe and Bradford Moor in **Bradford** after cash and a decommissioned AK47 rifle were found.

**Watford Observer**, 25 November 2009

A man from **Watford** has been charged with possession of a "rifle style gun" and criminal damage to a car. It is alleged that he intended to lead a member of the public to believe "unlawful violence" would be used against him or another person.

**Watford Observer**, 25 November 2009

Peter Gimlinger used a gun to rob a service station in **St Albans**, Hertfordshire, in January 2009 after they refused to serve alcohol past their licensed hours. He pleaded guilty to armed robbery and was remanded in custody for sentence in January.

**Wandsworth Guardian**, 25 November 2009

Two armed robbers raided a shop in **Tooting**, south London. The men entered with a handgun and took bottles of drink. They hit a victim who was dragged to the back of the shop.

**This is Cornwall**, 25 November 2009

Thomas Ware, 19, was drunk when he shot at three parked vehicles in **Lostwithiel**, Cornwall, in July 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). The **shotgun** he used came into his possession after it had been stolen during a burglary in June 2009. Ware admitted possessing a loaded shotgun in a public place and three offences of criminal damage to vehicles and has been sent to a young offenders' institution for 16 months.

**Telegraph & Argus**, 25 November 2009

Anthony Scaife and his son Matthew kidnapped a woman and her 2-year-old child and kept them hostage for 24 hours. Scaife was in dispute with her over a bill for renovation work. Wearing para-military gear, the men broke into their house in **Skipton**, North Yorkshire, armed with a handgun and at least two **shotguns**, and took the mother and child away, telling the woman's husband that they would be killed if he contacted the police, but he reported the abduction five minutes later. After being kept in a joiner's workshop for hours the woman and child were dropped at the side of a road near her home. The men had pleaded guilty to conspiring to kidnap and will be sentenced in December (*Yorkshire Post*, 12 November 2009).

**The Star**, 25 November 2009

A taxi driver was targeted by a man with an **air rifle** when he dropped off a fare in **Stannington**, Sheffield. He and his passengers heard a loud bang and the driver found a pellet mark on the driver's side of the cab just below the window. The police said that another vehicle had been target on the same evening in the same area.

**Peterborough Evening Telegraph**, 25 November 2009

Armed police were called to a house in **Millfield**, Peterborough, after a man threatened to shoot officers trying to arrest him. He claimed to have firearms but none were found in the house after the man had been removed.

**Liverpool Echo**, 25 November 2009

During drugs raids Merseyside Police officers arrested 11 people at addresses in **Anfield**, **Maghull**, **Bootle**, **Kirkby** and **Norris Green** on suspicion of committing a variety of offences including possession of a **shotgun**.

**Evening Courier**, 25 November 2009

Two men wearing Hallowe'en masks, one of whom was thought to have been carrying a handgun robbed a bookmakers in **Bradford**. Two female workers were left shaken but were uninjured.

**Bedfordshire on Sunday**, 25 November 2009

Dean Mays stole **shotguns** from a house in **Shefford**, Bedfordshire, but the guns have not been found. He pleaded guilty to two burglaries and asked for 14 similar offences to be taken into consideration and was jailed for a total of four years and nine months.

**BBC**, 25 November 2009

Merrick Brown has been convicted of the murder of a man who was shot in the head in **East Ham**, east London, in October 2001. He will serve a minimum of 33 years.

**BBC**, 25 November 2009

Shots were fired through the window of a house in **Consett**, County Durham, and a car was also peppered with **shotgun** pellets. Police have moved a family out of the house. Two men have been arrested, and one has been charged with two other offences after an **air weapon** was found at his home (*BBC*, 27 November 2009).

**Liverpool Echo**, 24 November 2009

An amateur football match being played in **Speke**, Liverpool, had to be abandoned after a brawl on the touchline in which it was alleged that a gun was produced. There were no reports of any shots being fired and police found no evidence of the weapon.

**Liverpool Echo**, 24 November 2009

A man was shot with a **shotgun** outside a bookmakers in **Belle Vale**, Liverpool. The victim was talking to another man in the street at the time. He was taken to hospital with pellet wounds to his legs but has now been discharged.

**Lincolnshire Echo**, 24 November 2009

Ben Seare hit a man over the head with a **ball-bearing gun** during a robbery in a street in **Chapel St Leonards**, Lincolnshire, in March 2009. He demanded all the money and jewellery his victim had on him but was pushed away before he hit the man. Seare admitted attempted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm. He has been jailed for five years (*Skegness Standard*, 25 November 2009).

**Hull Daily Mail**, 24 November 2009

A gun was among items confiscated by police officers during raids in connection with counterfeiting at Craven Park market in **Hull**.

**Evening Courier**, 24 November 2009

One of a number of complaints about anti-social behaviour relating to a youth and community shelter in **Wyke**, West Yorkshire, is that young people have used a **ball-bearing gun** to fire at younger children.

**BBC**, 24 November 2009

A couple were handcuffed and threatened with a gun by a gang of robbers at their home in **Salford**, Greater Manchester. Five men have been arrested on suspicion of robbery and two other men and a woman have been arrested on suspicion of assisting an offender.

**BBC**, 24 November 2009

Two shots were fired from a **shotgun** during a raid on a building later found to be a cannabis factory in **Bishopsworth**, Bristol. Police were called and arrested a man.

**This is North Devon**, 23 November 2009

Two men were arrested following an incident in **Bideford**, Devon. Police had received reports that two men had been threatened by a man with a gun.

**Sussex Express**, 23 November 2009

PC Simon Burrows has been presented with a certificate of merit in recognition of his bravery in disarming a man holding a rifle in **Newhaven**, East Sussex, in December 2008. He was called to a domestic incident where the man ran into a bedroom to avoid being arrested. PC Burrows came face to face with the gun, grabbed the weapon and disarmed the man and arrested him.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 23 November 2009

Three masked men entered a bookmakers in **Northampton** and pointed what may have been a **shotgun** at the cashier and demanded money. The offenders escaped with cash. No-one was hurt during the incident.

**Daily Mail**, 23 November 2009

Stephen Spellacy, a former police officer from **Pocklington**, East Yorkshire, has been jailed for eight-and-a-half years after admitting two counts of conspiracy to launder money and possession of a weapon and ammunition. He was part of conspiracy to defraud an insurance company over several years. When police searched his home they found a semi-automatic pistol and ammunition. A number of other men were jailed for their part in the conspiracy.

**BBC**, 23 November 2009

A couple were robbed at gunpoint as they were walking to a dance class in **Quarry Bank**, West Midlands. The woman suffered a gash to her head during the struggle and needed stitches. The robber escaped with a bag containing dance shoes and a pair of glasses.

**BBC**, 23 November 2009

A band who had just performed at a pub in **Burntwood**, Staffordshire, were detained by police after allegations a firearm had been seen in their van by CCTV operators. No weapon was found and the men were released without charge.

**Weston & Somerset Mercury**, 22 November 2009

Vincent Martin who took a loaded **air rifle** into woods in **Weston-super-Mare**, Somerset, sparked an armed police response. He has pleaded guilty to possessing a loaded air weapon in a public place. He claimed he did not know he was breaking the law. He had bought the weapon in town for £30 planning to use it for target practice in the woods. He was given a 12 month community order and ordered to pay costs and complete 100 hours of unpaid work. The weapon will be destroyed. In May another man was caught carrying an airgun in the same woodland (see [September 2009 Incidents](#)).

***This is Bristol***, 22 November 2009

A man has been charged with possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear or violence. He was accused of possessing a **shotgun** at his home in **Weston-super-Mare**, Somerset, with intent to cause a debt collector violence.

***The Argus***, 22 November 2009

A man wielding a realistic-looking metal **imitation revolver** was tackled by a customer in a betting shop in **Gossops Green**, Crawley in Sussex. The raider demanded money from staff who handed some over before the customer intervened and eventually chased him down the road. A suspect was arrested by police nearby.

***This is Nottingham***, 21 November 2009

A man armed with a **ball-bearing gun** terrified a man sitting at a bus stop in **Long Eaton**, Derbyshire, and stole his laptop. The man was with another offender.

***This is Grimsby***, 21 November 2009

Four men have appeared in court after a **shotgun** was allegedly fired in a confrontation inside a house in **Grimsby**, Lincolnshire. The men are all accused of aggravated burglary, involving having a shotgun with them and possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life.

***This is Bristol***, 21 November 2009

David Wearing has been given a suspended prison sentence for not having a firearms certificate for an antique .22 rifle found at his home in Bristol. He had been visited by a police officer after ordering a **stun gun** from America. He pleaded guilty to one charge of possessing a firearm without a certificate and one charge of purchasing a prohibited weapon (the stun gun). He was given an eight month suspended sentence and ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid community work. The rifle was forfeited and the stun gun forfeited and destroyed.

***Press Association***, 21 November 2009

A man has died in hospital after a double shooting at a club in **Bilston**, West Midlands. The other victim's injuries were not thought to be life-threatening. Three people were injured in a shooting outside the same club in September 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). Two men have been held on suspicion of murder and one on suspicion of conspiracy to wound and perverting the course of justice (*Teletext*, 23 November 2009).

***Newham Recorder***, 21 November 2009

Four people have been accused of conspiracy to rob after an incident involving a firearm in **Hadleigh**, Essex. They are charged with conspiracy to rob, possession of an **imitation firearm** in a public place, possession of a prohibited weapon ie a **stun gun**, and possession of an imitation firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence.

***Liverpool Echo***, 21 November 2009

Jamie Heffey, 17, and a 15-year-old boy who were members of a gang of 12 people which attacked and shot a man in **Croxteth**, Liverpool, in June 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) have been given custodial sentences. Their victim was trying to help the co-owner of a pub where the gang had been causing trouble. Both pleaded guilty to conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm. Heffey was sent to a young offenders' institute for four-and-a-half years, the other teenager for three-and-a-half years.

**Lancashire Telegraph**, 21 November 2009

Katherine Jarrett was found with drugs and a **stun gun** at her home in **Clayton-le-Moors**, Lancashire. She has been jailed for four years and three months after admitting possessing and supplying cocaine and possessing the stun gun.

**Evening Courier**, 21 November 2009

A spate of damage to windows and outside lights has been caused at homes in **Rastrick**, West Yorkshire. It is believed the damage has been caused by someone using an **air rifle**.

**Cambridge News**, 21 November 2009

Dwayne Sampson has been jailed for six years after holding up a bookmakers in **Cambridge** in September 2008. Sampson, who had 19 previous convictions, was armed with an **imitation pistol** and stole a money tray containing £246.

**Winsford Guardian**, 20 November 2009

Windows in the library in **Winsford**, Cheshire, have been smashed by **airgun** pellets.

**West Yorkshire Police**, 20 November 2009

Police have recovered a handgun, drugs and money following a raid on a property in **Manningham**, Bradford. Three men, including one teenager, were arrested.

**West Yorkshire Police**, 20 November 2009

The police found 12 live shotgun cartridges, a number of **air weapons** and other weapons at a house in **Halton Moor**, Leeds, where they also found £40,000 of drugs. Four people, including two teenagers, were arrested.

**This is Plymouth**, 20 November 2009

Sonny Parsons brandished a **replica gun** at staff in a fast food outlet in **St Budeaux**, Plymouth and had been jailed for affray in June. He has now been banned from every takeaway in the city and put under curfew. The court heard that residents and workers in St Budeaux needed to be protected as he is unpredictable, especially under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

**This is Nottingham**, 20 November 2009

Mark Holroyd has been jailed after being caught dealing drugs and storing firearms. When police searched his home in **St Ann's**, Nottingham, in June 2009 they found a revolver, a live round and a **double barrel shotgun**, broken down for storage. At the time he made full admissions to the police. In September he was found at his home with a man who was buying drugs from him. He has been jailed for a total of five years.

**The Sentinel**, 20 November 2009

Jamie Bowers pointed an **imitation pistol** at the head of a shopkeeper in **Meir Heath**, Staffordshire, in July 2007 before stealing £70. He had been ordered to carry out the robbery to try and repay a debt to Scott Clegg and Spencer Rushton. Earlier this year Rushton and Clegg were convicted of robbery and possessing an imitation firearm with intent to commit an offence and had been given four year terms. Rushton received a further three months for possessing a stun gun. Following an appeal their sentences have been increased to six years and three months for Rushton and five years for Clegg. Bowers was jailed for 18 months and his sentence was left unchanged.

**The Gazette**, 20 November 2009

An **imitation firearm** was seized during a series of drugs raids by police in **Grange Park, Layton, Blackpool, Ansdell** and **St Annes**, Lancashire.

**Click Lancashire**, 20 November 2009

Two men entered a bank in **Fulwood**, Preston in Lancashire, with a handgun and threatened staff. Police are unable to confirm if the firearm was real or **imitation**. The men escaped with a substantial quantity of money.

**Chad (Mansfield)**, 20 November 2009

A man has appeared in court accused of stealing more than £33,000 worth of goods including **shotguns** from a property in **Chesterfield**, Derbyshire, in May 2009.

**BBC**, 20 November 2009

Three men are being questioned on suspicion of conspiracy to commit murder after police received reports a firearm was discharged outside an address in **Hollinswood**, Telford in Shropshire. The men have been released pending further inquiries (*Sunday Mercury*, 24 November 2009).

**The Argus**, 20 November 2009

Adam Cheal and Adam Hills drove around the streets of **Burgess Hill**, West Sussex, in June 2009 with part of a pressure washer sticking out of their car window like a rifle. Hills forced the car to backfire and pedestrians thought they were being shot with a drive-by sniper. The two men admitted a charge of affray by putting people in fear of their personal safety and now face a jail sentence.

**This is Total Essex**, 19 November 2009

Two men brandishing a handgun and a crowbar raided a pizza restaurant on the outskirts of **Braintree**, Essex. The men tied up the staff and held a gun to the manager's head. She was threatened to make sure she opened the safe.

**Seacroft Today**, 19 November 2009

Michael Clough brandished a handgun when he raided his local bookies in **Harehills**, Leeds. He escaped with £400 but was arrested at his flat close by. The police discovered two black handguns, an **air pistol** and a **gas-powered ball bearing gun**. He admitted robbery and possessing an imitation handgun and has been jailed for four years.

**Muswell Hill Journal**, 19 November 2009

A man was arrested after a raider fled from a travel agents in **Muswell Hill**, north London. An unarmed police officer grabbed the suspect, and a member of the public grabbed a gun that had dropped to the ground. During the raid two female staff had been threatened.

**Liverpool Echo**, 19 November 2009

Three men are on trial facing charges of blackmail, false imprisonment, assault, and possession of an **imitation firearm**. A businessman is alleged to have been subjected to a violent ordeal in which he had the barrel of a gun rammed into his mouth when he was confronted by two men at his business premises in **Bootle**, Merseyside.

**Get Surrey**, 19 November 2009

A 15-year-old from **Whyteleafe**, Surrey, shoved an **air pistol** in his victim's face when he forced the man to hand over his loose change, a cigarette lighter and a cigarette. He has been given a 12 month detention and training order after pleading guilty to robbery and using a gun in the commission of a crime. The attack, which took place in a public toilet, was staged to raise cash to pay off a drug debt.

**BBC**, 19 November 2009

Figures released by the Metropolitan Police reveal that of 144 women caught with firearms in **London** in 2008-09, 88 were cautioned, 47 were charged and five were handed youth reprimands. The vast majority of the incidents apparently relate to women who had illegal gas and pepper sprays, which are classed as firearms.

**Welwyn & Hatfield Times**, 18 November 2009

Two people were threatened at gunpoint at a home in **Hatfield**, Hertfordshire. The weapon was reported to be an **airgun**. A man has been arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm in a public place.

**Telegraph & Argus**, 18 November 2009

A gunman threatened a shop owner during an attempted robbery in **Fairweather Green**, Bradford. The man was armed with a handgun, but fled empty-handed when others came to the owner's assistance.

**Oldham Advertiser**, 18 November 2009

A pensioner has been left terrified after an **air rifle** was fired at her house in **Limeside** in Oldham, Lancashire. Her front room window was hit.

**News & Star**, 18 November 2009

In April Sean McDonald was jailed for 10 years and eight months after admitting blackmail, possession of an **imitation firearm** and possession of heroin with intent to supply. He had demanded money from a man in **Whitehaven**, Cumbria, and had gone to his victim's home with a gun. His appeal for a reduced sentence was thrown out.

**News & Star**, 18 November 2009

Scott Robinson was jailed in July after pleading guilty to possessing a firearm with a barrel of less than 30 cm in length. A **sawn-off shotgun** was found in the wardrobe of his bedsit in **Penrith**, Cumbria, when his landlord took re-possession. He had originally planned to kill himself with the gun, which he had shortened after taking it from his uncle's farm. He was sentenced to five years in jail but has failed to have the sentence cut at the Court of Appeal.

**London Daily Press**, 18 November 2009

Grant Findley has been jailed for nine years after pleading guilty to conspiracy to rob and possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent. He carried out a string of armed robberies, mainly in **Dorset** and **Surrey**. His fellow robber was Tony Turner who was jailed in March 2009 (see [Incidents](#)).

**BBC**, 18 November 2009

Four masked men armed with a knife, axe and **stun gun** burst into a house in **Blackley**, Manchester. The victims handed over various items before the men drove off in the family's car.

**Yorkshire Post**, 17 November 2009

Andrew Semeniuk of **Leeds** has admitted handling stolen goods, selling a **12-gauge shotgun** and three drugs offences. He and his brother were both caught following an undercover police operation against burglars and drugs dealers. Both men were jailed for eight years. Aiden Fraser, 18, from **Scarborough** sold an **imitation firearm** and told undercover police how to modify it to fire live ammunition. He has been sent to a young offenders' institution for eight months (*Harrogate Advertiser*, 21 November 2009).

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 17 November 2009

A newsagent fought off an armed robber at his shop in **Lockwood**, West Yorkshire. The robber pointed a gun at him but left empty-handed. A 15-year-old is currently on police bail after being arrested on suspicion of attempted robbery.

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 17 November 2009

A man who injured two people when he fired a reactivated 9mm Beretta pistol has admitted two offences of unlawful wounding and possessing the gun and ammunition with intent to cause fear of violence. Shaun Alexander fired the pistol in **Huddersfield**, West Yorkshire, in December 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) and both victims were hit by the same shot. He has been told he will face many years behind bars. One of the victims, a man, has admitted offences of common assault. The other victim was a woman who had intervened in a violent clash between the two men.

**Hemel Today**, 17 November 2009

A man held up a bank in **Tring**, Hertfordshire, with what was thought to be a **toy gun**. He failed to steal any cash. A man has been charged with attempted robbery and possession of an imitation firearm (*BBC*, 18 November 2009).

**Hayling Islander**, 17 November 2009

Police found a gun, a can of CS gas and cocaine when they searched the home of Gary Rix in **Hayling**, Hampshire. Officers had arrested Rix and another man after watching them load boxes containing cannabis into the back of a van in Brent Cross, London. Rix admitted one count of possession of cannabis with intent to supply, possession of cocaine and two counts of possession of a firearm. He was jailed for six years.

**Hackney Gazette**, 17 November 2009

Detectives are investigating whether a car that was torched in Stamford Hill was used in a drive-by shooting in **Lower Clapton**, north east London. Shots had been fired at a parked car. The two men sitting inside escaped without injury.

**The Gazette**, 17 November 2009

A man who barricaded himself inside his home in **Blackpool**, Lancashire, in June 2009 was seen with an **air rifle**, which was found later not to work. Martin Grayshon has admitted affray and was sentenced to eight months imprisonment, suspended for two years, and will be supervised for 18 months.

**Echo**, 17 November 2009

A security man was threatened with a gun by robbers who took a cash box believed to contain a number of £10 notes. The robbery occurred outside a building society branch in **Stanford-le-Hope**, Essex.

**Warrington Guardian**, 16 November 2009

A **stun gun** was among items seized by police during raids in **Warrington**, Cheshire. Nine people were arrested for a variety of offences including suspicion of supplying and possession of drugs, money laundering, handling stolen goods and possession of a firearm.

**Times**, 16 November 2009

It is reported that the man arrested as part of the hunt for the "Night Stalker" in south London was a keen **air rifle** shooter who used glass bottles for target practice in his garden in **Brockley**.

**Fleetwood Weekly News**, 16 November 2009

Angus Arthur, 18, was drunk and high on drugs when he threatened a woman with an **airgun** and stole her handbag at a music festival near **Silloth** in Cumbria in August 2009 (see [September 2009 Incidents](#)). He has admitted robbery and possessing a firearm with intent to cause violence. Sentencing will take place in December.

**Evening Gazette**, 16 November 2009

David Suggett has admitted possessing a **shotgun** without a licence. The gun was seized from the loft space of a property in **Middlesbrough** during a drugs raid in June 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). Suggett and Fay Oliver also pleaded guilty to drugs offences, but Oliver denied the shotgun charge and it will lie on her court file.

**BBC**, 16 November 2009

Two men have stolen cash from a fast-food outlet in **Gravesend**, Kent. The robbers were armed with a small handgun and a knife.

**BBC**, 16 November 2009

One of three men remanded in custody following drugs raids by police in **West Norfolk** has also been charged with possession of a **shotgun** without a licence.

**Westmorland Gazette**, 14 November 2009

A car has been peppered with pellets from an **air weapon** in **Ulverston**, Cumbria. Criminal damage has been caused to the car twice in a couple of weeks.

**Sunderland Echo**, 14 November 2009

Two **air weapons**, believed to be a rifle and a pistol, counterfeit designer clothing and a quantity of drugs were seized by police in raids on four addresses in **Pennywell** and **South Hylton**, Sunderland. Two women and a man have been arrested.

**The Star**, 14 November 2009

A man who triggered a chain of violent events which led to the fatal shooting of his father in **Pitsmoor**, Sheffield, in March 2007 (see [Incidents](#)) has had charges against him of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence dropped. He testified during the trial of his father's convicted killers that he had taken what he claimed was an **imitation gun** to one of their houses hours before.

**Liverpool Echo**, 14 November 2009

Shaun Meadows buried a Luger pistol in the back garden of his home in **Knowsley**, Merseyside. Police found the weapon together with a magazine and 10 bullets in May 2009. The gun had been used in a shooting in **Huyton** three days earlier. He had agreed to mind the weapon and ammunition because of a drug debt. Meadows, who pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited weapon and expanding ammunition, was jailed for five years.

**BBC**, 14 November 2009

A man is recovering after being shot in the leg in **Rise Park**, Nottingham. He was taken to hospital where his injuries were not thought to be life-threatening.

**The News (Portsmouth)**, 13 November 2009

A youth pointed a handgun at an 11-year-old boy as he went to cross a railway bridge in **Southsea**, Hampshire. The boy ran away. Police say it is not yet known whether it was a real firearm.

**Liverpool Echo**, 13 November 2009

Two men who held guns for a drugs gang operating in **Kensington**, Liverpool, have been jailed. Graham Johnson received an eight year sentence and a 17-year-old youth a three year sentence. A Mach 10 machine gun was among the weapons stored to warn off rivals. Since the gang were arrested there have been no shooting incidents in Kensington. The gang received sentences totalling 98 years.

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 13 November 2009

A man who shot himself with a **shotgun** in his garden in **Ainley Top**, West Yorkshire, in August 2009 was suffering from depression and anxiety an inquest has heard. The coroner concluded that he had taken his own life.

**East Anglian Daily Times**, 13 November 2009

Armed robbers held up an amusement arcade in **Walton**, Essex, and made off with a large quantity of coins. The two men armed with a **sawn-off shotgun** and pepper spray.

**Diss Express**, 13 November 2009

William Pierce has been warned that he faces prison if he breaks his ASBO conditions and continues to make trouble for his neighbours. He admitted criminal damage and handling a gas stove and **air rifle** stolen from a shed in **Harleston**, Norfolk. He admitted threatening behaviour in the town in March 2009 when he threatened to get a **shotgun** and shoot people. He was given 12 months in prison, suspended for two years, as well as a supervision order for 12 months.

**Bedfordshire on Sunday**, 13 November 2009

A man has been charged with two counts of having an **imitation firearm** with intention to commit crime. The charges relate to an armed robbery at a petrol station and a bookmakers in **Bedford** in October 2009.

**BBC**, 13 November 2009

Eight handguns, 200 rounds of ammunition and thousands of cigarettes were found by customs officials hidden in a lorry arriving at **Dover**, Kent. A Lithuanian national has been charged with attempted smuggling.

**BBC**, 13 November 2009

Two members of staff at an office in **Gloucester** were threatened by two men with a gun. The raiders stole about £300 in cash.

**BBC**, 13 November 2009

A man has been charged with possession of an **imitation firearm** after he was spotted by CCTV operators holding what appeared to be a handgun in a street in **Grantham**, Lincolnshire.

**BBC**, 13 November 2009

A man was shot in the leg in a targeted attack in **Tuebrook**, Liverpool. Several shots were fired from what was believed to be a handgun. The victim's injuries are not thought to be life-threatening.

**Uxbridge Gazette**, 12 November 2009

Armed robbers are believed to have threatened one of their victims with a **Taser gun** during an incident in which a van was stopped at a bogus police census point set up near **Heathrow Airport**, west London. The van containing electrical components was stolen and later found abandoned and the goods taken.

**This is Surrey Today**, 12 November 2009

Paul Clarke, a former soldier, has been found guilty of possessing a firearm. He handed a discarded **sawn-off shotgun** to the police in March 2009. He spotted a black bin liner at the bottom of his garden in **Merstham**, Surrey, and found the gun and two cartridges inside. He took the gun to a police station and was immediately arrested. The jury was told that his allegedly honest intent was irrelevant, possession of a firearm is a "strict liability" charge. There is no defence in law against it.

**Roundhay Today**, 12 November 2009

Firearms officers swooped on two men in the centre of **Leeds** after they were allegedly seen with a gun by a passer-by. They were arrested on suspicion of being in possession of an **imitation firearm**.

**Hereford Times**, 12 November 2009

A court has heard how a man, who was killed by being set alight with petrol, kept an arsenal of weapons, including a machete and gun, for protection at his home in **Bucknell**, Herefordshire. Two men are accused of his murder.

**Hackney Gazette**, 12 November 2009

Police found evidence that a gun had been fired outside a pub in **Hackney**, north east London. Passers-by had heard gunshots.

**Hackney Gazette**, 12 November 2009

A man brandishing a suspected **imitation firearm** chased another man through the streets of **Stamford Hill**, north London.

**Evening Chronicle**, 12 November 2009

Jeffrey Wood has been found guilty of conspiracy to rob and possessing a firearm with intent. He threatened staff at a shop in **Gateshead**, Tyneside, in August 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) with a **sawn-off shotgun** as he demanded the takings. He was fought off by the shopkeeper who wrestled the weapon from his hand. Wood fled empty handed. Sentencing was adjourned. Two other men were found not guilty of conspiracy to rob.

**Daily Mail**, 12 November 2009

Giovanni Mercuri brandished a **blank-firing revolver** in a nightclub in **Southport**, Merseyside, in March 2009. He pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm which he claimed he had been given for his own protection. He was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment suspended for two years and placed on a four month curfew.

**Cambs 24**, 12 November 2009

A man has been shot and injured with an **air rifle** while walking along a street in **Eaton Socon**, Cambridgeshire. He was left with a mark on his back after the pellet lodged in his fleece jacket but did not pierce his skin.

**Bury Free Press**, 12 November 2009

John McFarlane has pleaded guilty to murdering a woman whom he shot with a bolt gun in **Bury St Edmonds**, Suffolk, in May 2009. The victim had called the police because McFarlane was being a nuisance and stalking her. During the attack he also injured one of the victim's daughters. He was given a 20-year minimum jail term (*BBC*, 13 November 2009).

**Bolton News**, 12 November 2009

Guns were seized when police raided a suspected drugs den in **Kearsley**, Lancashire. A **sawn-off shotgun** and handgun were found along with other items including drugs. A man and a woman were arrested.

**BBC**, 12 November 2009

Two armed raids in south London are believed to be linked. In the first, four men armed with a gun demanded cash as a pub in **Brixton**. In the second, three men armed with a handgun demanded money at a pub in **Clapham**.

**This is Local London**, 11 November 2009

A man was shot in the leg by a man who stole his motorbike at his home in **Kingsbury**, north west London. The victim had advertised the bike for sale and after viewing it his attacker returned with a gun and shot him.

**Peterlee Mail**, 11 November 2009

Matthew Kelly, 18, held up a taxi driver at gunpoint during a robbery in **Hartlepool** in July 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) in which he stole £36.50. Kelly had been drinking and had been firing a **BB gun** at road signs. The pistol had been brought back from Spain by one of his friends. He admitted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm. He has been sentenced to three years in a young offenders' institution.

**Norwich Evening News**, 11 November 2009

An elderly woman was shot in the head with an **airgun** at a car boot sale at **Costessey**, Norwich. She sustained heavy bleeding and was drifting in and out of consciousness until paramedics arrived. It is believed that a pellet was fired while the gun was being examined by a buyer. Two men, believed to be a stallholder and a man interested in buying the weapon, were arrested for assault and bailed.

**Herald Express**, 11 November 2009

Nicholas Tomory has admitted possessing a prohibited weapon, a pump action, smooth bore **shotgun** with a barrel length shorter than 24 inches. The gun was found during a raid on a boat anchored at **Brixham**, Devon, in October 2009 (see [Incidents](#)).

**Hemel Today**, 11 November 2009

David Biggins was caught in a police operation targeting drug dealing in pubs with an unlicensed **double-barrelled shotgun** and cartridges in his bedroom in **Hemel Hempstead**, Hertfordshire, in March 2009. He claimed he kept it because he intended to take up clay pigeon shooting. He has pleaded guilty to supplying a Class A drug and possessing the shotgun without a certificate and been sentenced to 18 months in prison.

**BBC**, 11 November 2009

A man was arrested after armed police surrounded a flat in **Ross on Wye**, Herefordshire. There were reports of a man carrying a gun but no weapons were found.

**Worksop Guardian**, 10 November 2009

Barry Thomas has admitted affray by way of threatening unlawful violence and possession of a firearm without a certificate. He threatened a man on private land near **Blyth**, Nottinghamshire, whilst in possession of a weapon and the next day when police went to his home in **Harworth** they found four **air weapons** which needed certificates. He was sentenced to six months in prison, suspended for 18 months, and ordered to do 100 hours of unpaid work.

**Sunday Sun**, 10 November 2009

The trial has begun of a number of people allegedly involved in an operation in which gas-firing flare guns, alarm guns, were imported from Germany to the UK and then modified in a factory in **Ancoats**, Manchester, to fire live ammunition. A total of 274 of the revolvers and pistols were said to have been smuggled into England between April 2004 and September 2005. They were brought in by rucksack couriers and later by post. A man described as one of the ringleaders denies conspiracy to possess firearms with intent to endanger life, conspiracy to import prohibited firearms, conspiracy to manufacture firearms and conspiracy to possess ammunition. A woman and two men deny assisting an offender and another man denies conspiracy to manufacture firearms. Two others, David McCulloch and Robert Tyrer, have pleaded guilty to various firearm offences.

**Streatham Guardian**, 10 November 2009

A licensed **shotgun** was stolen from outside a house in **Streatham**, south London, when its owner left it on his garden wall whilst he was preparing for a shooting trip and loading his car. He only realised the gun was missing when he arrived at the destination of the shoot, seven hours later. The owner now faces prosecution for breaching his shotgun licence conditions which state while in transit the owner must take reasonable care of his firearm.

**Manchester Evening News**, 10 November 2009

A man has been shot four times, twice in each leg, in a punishment-style attack at a house in **Bury**, Greater Manchester. The shots were fired from a 9mm handgun. Four men have been arrested, one of whom on suspicion of attempted murder (*BBC*, 10 November 2009).

**Liverpool Echo**, 10 November 2009

A gun, thought to be a semi-automatic, was thrown from a car being followed by the police in **Scarisbrick**, Merseyside. Three men have been arrested. One has appeared in court charged with possession of an illegal firearm (*Liverpool Echo*, 11 November 2009).

**Birmingham Mail**, 10 November 2009

Police who followed a car from Birmingham and stopped it on the M6 found that the driver, David Edwards, had a bag containing a gun, a silencer and ammunition. He had been seen meeting Akbar Bukhari in **Small Heath**, Birmingham, who had given him the package. Both men pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited weapon, a silencer and ammunition. Bukhari was jailed for six and a half years, Edwards for six years.

**The Argus**, 10 November 2009

Two men burgled and attacked an elderly couple at their home in **Hadlow Down**, Sussex. They ransacked the house and stole two **shotguns**, two **air rifles**, together with other items including the couple's car.

**Wigan Evening Post**, 9 November 2009

David Travis and Neil Croysdale who were part of a gang which held up a bank in **Wigan**, Lancashire, in June 2009 have been jailed after pleading guilty to robbery and three counts of possession of a firearm. The men involved were armed with **sawn-off shotguns**. One gang member, who has not been caught, was seen in **Standish** with a .22 calibre rifle which was later recovered. One of the cars used during the raid had been stolen in an armed robbery in **Atherton**, six days earlier during which a man and a woman were threatened with a **sawn-off shotgun**, a knife, a baseball bat and an axe.

**Wigan Evening Post**, 9 November 2009

In February 2008 Stuart Brown was found with a **sawn-off double barrel shotgun** hidden in his wardrobe at his parents' home in **Wigan**, Lancashire, where he lived. He has been jailed for two years. He claimed he thought the antique gun was an imitation which he wanted to display on his bedroom wall.

**This is Local London**, 9 November 2009

**Enfield** College in north London was evacuated and five people, all aged under 18, arrested after a student was reported to have a gun in the grounds. No firearm was found and the five were released without charge.

**This is Derbyshire**, 9 November 2009

A 13-year-old boy has pleaded guilty to two counts of robbery and one count of theft, witness intimidation and possession of an imitation firearm with intent. In May 2009 he pointed a **ball-bearing gun** in the face of a man in **Derby** and demanded cash. In April he was involved in two robberies in **Allenton** in which he stole a mobile phone and a bike from boys and in September he stole a mobile phone from another boy. He had also threatened to break the legs of one of his victims. He has been given an eight-month detention and training order.

**The Star**, 9 November 2009

A taxi driver has been shot with an **airgun** in his cab in **Highfield**, Sheffield. He was attacked as he collected a fare. He was taken to hospital and later discharged. Five men were arrested and bailed pending further enquiries.

**Daily Mail**, 9 November 2009

A group of youths, some as young as six, threatened to shoot the crew an ambulance in **Bolton**, Lancashire, with **BB guns**. The crew had been called out to help a two-year-old girl with burns. Another ambulance had had its tyres slashed. A man has been arrested on suspicion of criminal damage (*Metro*, 9 November 2009).

**Berrow's Worcester Journal**, 9 November 2009

A man armed with an **air rifle** and a knife chased youths who were throwing eggs at passing cars near an estate in **Stourport**, Worcestershire. He is believed to have been a car driver who stopped his vehicle and then gave chase after borrowing a push bike from another man.

**Liverpool Echo**, 7 November 2009

Merseyside Police have reported that eight handguns, five **shotguns** and one rifle were taken out of the hands of criminals in **Norris Green**, **Croxteth** and **Huyton** last month. They also seized 35 9mm rounds, 364 .22 bullets, 349 shotgun cartridges and other potentially lethal ammunition. The finds were the result of tip-off from the public. This month a **shotgun** has been recovered from under a bed in **Huyton** and a man was arrested on suspicion of possessing the gun and criminal damage.

**Evening Gazette**, 7 November 2009

Darren Russell has been jailed for five and a half years and his partner Michelle Mason was given a 12-month suspended prison sentence with supervision and 150 hours unpaid work. During two police raids on their home in **Hartlepool** in May and June 2009 police had found drugs and a **stun gun** (see [May 2009 Incidents](#)). Russell pleaded guilty to drugs offences and possessing a prohibited weapon.

**Evening Gazette**, 7 November 2009

Peter Inseal has been jailed for seven years and nine months after he pleaded guilty to attempted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He went into a bank in **Redcar**, Teesside, with a **toy handgun** in October 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) and demanded money before fleeing.

**BBC**, 7 November 2009

Three men were injured in two separate shooting incidents in **Bradford**. One man was shot outside a curry house and two men were injured at a nightclub. The incidents are not believed to be linked. One of the victims of the nightclub shooting was discharged from hospital, the other two victims were in a stable condition. A teenager was arrested in connection with the shooting at the curry house but released without charge and eliminated from the inquiry (*Telegraph & Argus*, 9 November 2009). A man has been arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life and wounding with intent in connection with the nightclub shooting in which it is believed a **double-barrelled shotgun** was used (*Telegraph & Argus*, 17 November 2009).

**Teletext**, 6 November 2009

Two men entered a taxi firm in **Burnage**, Manchester, and one of them pulled out a gun and demanded cash, threatening to shoot one of the staff. The victim said he did not have access to any money and the men stole his mobile.

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 6 November 2009

Two men armed with a gun and a knife escaped with a large sum of money after a raid on a bank in **Huddersfield**, West Yorkshire. No-one was hurt in the incident.

**Express & Star**, 6 November 2009

Ricardo Davie, 18, and Jason Purkiss have been found guilty of attempted murder. They shot a man four times with a .44 revolver and a Second World War Luger at a pub in **Park Village**, Wolverhampton in July 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). Sentencing was adjourned.

**Evening Chronicle**, 6 November 2009

A man who is on trial has denied attempted robbery, possessing a **shotgun** and damaging a door, being reckless whether life would be endangered. The trial follows an attack on a filling station in **Blaydon**, Tyneside, in September 2008.

**BBC**, 6 November 2009

A **stun gun** was among weapons found at the scene of a disturbance in **East Ham**, east London. Police found several people fighting. Thirteen people were arrested.

**This is South Devon**, 5 November 2009

Matthew Gooderham from **Torquay**, Devon, has pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited weapon and possessing drugs and been given a 12-month community order coupled with 80 hours unpaid work. The weapon was a **stun gun** which he had bought for £3 at a car boot sale, believing it simply to be a torch. The stun gun did not work.

**Peterborough Evening Telegraph**, 5 November 2009

A pub window in **Eye**, Cambridgeshire, has been smashed in an attack which may have involved an **airgun**. Other windows locally had been damaged in a similar way.

**The News**, 5 November 2009

A **replica AK-47 rifle** and a bottle full of ammunition have been stolen by a thief who broke into a garage in **Hayling Island**, Hampshire. The weapon, which is used in airsoft skirmishing, can fire up to 400 rounds of ball bearings per minute at speeds of up to 250 mph. The owner is reported to have a special licence for the gun.

**Liverpool Echo**, 5 November 2009

Homes were shot at during attacks by warring rival gangs in **Page Moss**, Merseyside. A police spokesman said it was very fortunate that no-one was injured.

**Islington Gazette**, 5 November 2009

A shop in **Finsbury Park**, north London, was fired at with a **shotgun** during the same weekend in which petrol poured through the letterbox and been set alight. In another incident a café in **Holloway** was shot at. Police have since closed this and another cafe where it was suspected drugs were openly on sale. The incidents are thought to have been part of an ongoing battle between Kurdish-Turkish gangs in north London.

**Hackney Gazette**, 5 November 2009

Two people have been injured in separate shootings in **De Beauvoir**, north east London. A 15-year-old boy was shot at a youth club. Two days later a man was shot in the street and was in a serious condition in hospital. Two youths, aged 17 and 18, were arrested shortly after the second incident.

**Bucks Free Press**, 5 November 2009

Donald Stewart-Whyte has been found guilty of possessing a prohibited weapon. He kept an illegal firearm at his home in **High Wycombe**, Buckinghamshire. He was given a four and half year jail term but because of the lengthy period of time he spent on remand whilst facing other charges he was allowed to go free. The weapon was ordered to be forfeited and destroyed.

**BBC**, 5 November 2009

The death of a teenage girl shot in the eye with an **air rifle** in **Bury** in December 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) was an accident, a coroner has ruled. The owner of the gun, which was faulty, "didn't have a clue it was loaded". The victim was shot in the eye after another man had been looking at the gun and it fired a pellet as he put it down. Three men were cleared of firearms charges in September 2009 (see [Incidents](#)).

**Weston & Somerset Mercury**, 4 November 2009

A 13-year-old boy was shot in the leg with what is believed to have been a **BB gun** pellet in **Clevedon**, Somerset.

**Liverpool Echo**, 4 November 2009

A man has been left in a critical condition after being shot in the back in **Fazakerley**, Liverpool. He had presented himself for treatment at hospital with wounds to the back and buttock. In an unrelated incident shots were fired in a street in **Huyton**, Merseyside, where a similar incident had occurred in July 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). A man has been charged with possessing an illegal firearm and ammunition in connection with the incident in Huyton (*BBC*, 8 November 2009).

**Hereford Times**, 4 November 2009

Alec Bowen has pleaded guilty to two charges of burglary, fraudulently selling stolen items and possession of ammunition without a certificate. He had twice broken into a house at **Willersley**, Herefordshire, and amongst other items had stolen two decorative musket powder holders, an antique muzzle-loaded musket and 57 rounds of .22 cartridges. Neighbours had spotted him after the second raid when they saw him carrying a gun but decided not to challenge him. He was given a suspended 12-month jail sentence and ordered to pay £200 compensation for the distress caused to his victim.

**BBC**, 4 November 2009

Hugh West, who was arrested in **Rusholme**, Greater Manchester, in August 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) trying to sell a loaded gun manufactured to look like a pen, has been jailed for five years. He pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm and ammunition.

**Worcester News**, 3 November 2009

Two men, one dressed as a pirate and the other wearing a sombrero hat, fought in a pub in **Worcester** after one of them broke a **toy gun** he believed the other had pointed at him. The first man needed five stitches in his lip after being punched. However the magistrates found the toy gun owner not guilty as they could not prove the assault was intentional or reckless.

***This is Grimsby***, 3 November 2009

Daniel Harrison has admitted possessing an **air rifle** with intent to cause fear of violence after he pointed the weapon at two men in **Grimsby**, Lincolnshire. The gun was loaded. He also admitted possessing drugs on the same day in June 2009 and a number of other offences. He has been jailed for 70 weeks.

***Southport Visiter***, 3 November 2009

A man was shot in the stomach with an **air pistol** in the centre of **Southport**, Merseyside. He was taken to hospital for treatment and released a few hours later. Seven men were arrested on suspicion of wounding.

***Southport Visiter***, 3 November 2009

A man threatened staff at a bank in **Southport**, Merseyside, with what is thought to have been a handgun. He made off with between £2000 and £3000 in cash. A man was arrested later and a firearm and cash found in his vehicle. An ex-soldier has admitted holding up the bank, which he had also raided in 2000. Alan Huggins has pleaded guilty to seven charges of robbery, possession of an **imitation firearm**, theft and false identification. He admitted four other bank jobs in Merseyside (**St Helens**), Suffolk (**Newmarket, Bury St Edmonds**) and Essex (**Clacton-on-Sea**). He will be sentenced in December (*Formby Times*, 25 November 2009).

***Salisbury Journal***, 3 November 2009

An 18-year-old is on trial charged with possessing an imitation firearm and two counts of assault occasioning actual bodily harm. He is alleged to have shot two other teenagers, one a girl, when they were all camping near **Strangways**, Wiltshire, in April 2009. One of his alleged victims was left with 21 wounds from the incident. The accused was alleged to have been wearing camouflaged body armour and started shooting from trees with a **replica SA80 assault rifle** and then into a tent where the victims were cowering. Arron Richardson has been found guilty of two counts of ABH but the jury failed to reach a verdict on the firearms charge. Richardson had claimed that most of the group had used the guns and were all shooting at each other, trees and empty cans and bottles (*Salisbury Journal*, 10 November 2009). He was jailed for two and a half years (*Salisbury Journal*, 30 November 2009).

***Newham Recorder***, 3 November 2009

Police are appealing for witnesses to an incident in which a man was shot in a street in **Custom House**, east London, in October 2009. He received wounds to a leg and is in a stable condition.

***Liverpool Echo***, 3 November 2009

The windows of a house were shot out in a possible drive-by attack in **West Derby**, Merseyside.

***Daily Echo***, 3 November 2009

A couple from **Poole**, Dorset, have gone on trial on charges of cruelty towards four children. The alleged offences occurred in December 2008 and January 2009. The man is alleged to have fired a **BB gun** from the kitchen down the hallway towards a target, although any of the children could have come downstairs at any time. The jury has been directed to return a verdict of not guilty on the cruelty charge which related to the allegations that the partner had fired a BB gun inside the house (*Daily Echo*, 5 November 2009).

***BBC***, 3 November 2009

Two masked men threatened staff at a store in **Bishop's Cleeve**, Gloucestershire, with a gun during an armed robbery. A third man, believed to be armed with a claw hammer and CS spray, waited outside the door.

**BBC**, 3 November 2009

A man has died after being shot in a street in **Kennington**, south London. He suffered multiple gunshot wounds and died in hospital. A 19-year-old has been charged with murder (*BBC*, 8 November 2009).

**Stroud News & Journal**, 2 November 2009

Two 14-year-old boys were arrested on suspicion of possession of an offensive weapon after a 13-year-old boy was shot twice with a **BB gun** whilst walking in **Cheltenham**, Gloucestershire. He suffered minor injuries.

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## SCOTLAND

**BBC**, 29 November 2009

Two men were recovering from leg wounds after being shot with a **shotgun** during an organised shoot near **Dunning**, Perthshire. The police stated that one member of the group accidentally discharged his gun. A man has been charged under the Firearms Act.

**Scotsman**, 28 November 2009

A man from **Invergowrie**, Angus, has appeared in court to face allegations of repeatedly firing a **BB gun** at his wife over a period of three years. He is also alleged to have used a BB gun to shoot two young children.

**BBC**, 25 November 2009

Nikolaus Wirsten has been found guilty of breach of the peace after threatening to buy a gun and shoot three members of the community council in **Selkirk**. He had also sent offensive e-mails. He has been jailed for 16 months.

**BBC**, 25 November 2009

Two men have escaped with hundreds of thousands of pounds of cash after an armed raid on a post office in **Uddingston**, North Lanarkshire. The men threatened a member of staff with what appeared to be a gun.

**Evening Express**, 19 November 2009

A man has denied attacking another man and threatening him with a gun at a supermarket in **Bridge of Don**, Aberdeen, in November 2008. A second man has denied hiding the gun.

**BBC**, 19 November 2009

A man threatened staff at a bookmakers in the **Woodside** area of Glasgow with what appeared to be a gun. He escaped with a small quantity of cash. No-one was injured.

**Evening News**, 18 November 2009

Jeffrey Baumgardner tried to take a **gas-propelled air pistol** and a flick knife onto a plane from **Edinburgh** to the USA. Police were alerted when his suitcase was X-rayed. He has been fined £1,000.

**BBC**, 17 November 2009

A gun and ammunition were discovered by a member of the public in **Knightswood**, Glasgow. Police have carried out ballistics tests and have said they believed the gun had only there been there a short time.

**BBC**, 16 November 2009

A number of **shotguns** and ammunition have been stolen from a farm in the **Newbie** area of Annan, Dumfriesshire.

**Daily Record**, 11 November 2009

Stuart Marsden pointed a gun at a shopkeeper in **Inverness** and demanded cash during a robbery in March 2009. His victim handed over £85 but she recognised her attacker's voice. The gun was later thrown into a river. Marsden admitted assault and robbery and was jailed for two years. The weapon is reported to have been a black **BB gun** (*Highland News*, 12 November 2009).

**BBC**, 9 November 2009

A man threatened a member of staff at a video shop in **Hamilton**, South Lanarkshire. He appeared to have had a firearm. The man and an accomplice got away with a three-figure sum of money. Another robbery in **Hamilton** in which a member of staff at a pharmacy was threatened by a man with what appeared to be a firearm is possibly linked. A three-figure sum of money was also stolen (*BBC*, 10 November 2009).

**Evening News**, 6 November 2009

Pensioner Ian Knight confronted two youths in a street in **Blackhall**, Edinburgh, with a **replica Winchester rifle** in March 2009. The boys had been causing a noise outside his home. He had bought airsoft rifles for indoor target shooting but they were never used as he lost sight in one eye. He admitted having a firearm in his possession. He has been fined £367 and his guns have been forfeited (*BBC*, 1 December 2009).

**Daily Record**, 5 November 2009

A pensioner from **Cathkin**, Lanarkshire, shot himself with a **shotgun** less than a fortnight after a letter from his council warned him that a neighbour had complained about his dog's barking. His body had been found in woods near his home in October 2009.

**BBC**, 2 November 2009

A man was recovering in hospital after being shot in the leg in a drive-by shooting in **Uplawmoor**, East Renfrewshire. He was found lying in a ditch next to a golf course and is in a serious but stable condition. Police are treating the shooting as attempted murder.

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## WALES

**Daily Post**, 27 November 2009

A court has heard how a man on trial for the murder of his ex-lover who was found stabbed in **Connah's Quay**, Clwyd, had allegedly previously held a knife to her throat and had threatened her with an **air rifle**.

**Penarth Times**, 26 November 2009

A Weinrach **air rifle** was among a number of items stolen from an outbuilding during a burglary in **Penarth**, South Glamorgan.

**Milford & West Wales Mercury**, 26 November 2009

A man from **Milford Haven**, Pembrokeshire, has been charged with possession of an **imitation firearm**, an R77 combat revolver, with intent. He is alleged to have caused a woman to believe that unlawful violence would be used against another and with assaulting her.

**Daily Post**, 17 November 2009

An 18-year-old was hit in the eye when she was shot with a **pellet gun** when she was on a fairground ride in **Llan Ffestiniog**, Gwynedd. She feared she would lose her sight and now has blurred vision and has been told not to do strenuous exercise.

**South Wales Argus**, 14 November 2009

A man from **Blackwood**, Gwent, has been charged with possessing explosive materials, an improvised gun and a terrorist document after being arrested at his home. The gun was allegedly a muzzle-loading firearm designed to fire lead shot.

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## INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

**The Journal**, 28 November 2009

Two men who shot and killed nine kittiwakes by shooting them with an **air rifle** on a cliff face have both pleaded guilty to intentional killing of wild birds. Dane Ord and Paul Reed could be facing a jail sentence. A third man is not facing charges. The attack took place at **Marsden**, Tyne & Wear (*Sunderland Echo*, 28 November 2009).

**The Star**, 26 November 2009

A swan was found shot dead at a nature reserve at **Beighton Marsh**, Sheffield. It was hit by three **airgun** pellets.

**Dorset Echo**, 21 November 2009

A kitten has been shot with an **air rifle** on the first day she was let out of the house in **Portland**, Dorset. She had to undergo emergency surgery after being hit by a pellet which just missed her spine.

**Hereford Times**, 20 November 2009

A cat looks set to lose her leg after being shot during a suspected **airgun** attack in **Ledbury**, Herefordshire. Bones in her front right leg have been shattered by a pellet.

**Fakenham & Wells Times**, 20 November 2009

A cat found beside a road near RAF **Marham**, Norfolk, had been shot four times, it is thought with an **air rifle**. It may need to have its eye removed and leg amputated.

**Sunderland Echo**, 16 November 2009

A cat is fighting for her life after being shot in the head with an **air rifle** in **Houghton**, County Durham. A pellet has lodged in her throat and cannot be removed.

**Scunthorpe Telegraph**, 16 November 2009

A cat was left needing emergency surgery after being shot with an **airgun** pellet which tore through his stomach and bladder. The attack took place in **Riddings**, North Lincolnshire, and follows two shootings at the owner's previous property in **Ashby**.

**The Sentinel**, 14 November 2009

A cat is lucky to be alive after an **airgun** pellet was left lodged in his head following an airgun attack in **Longton**, Cheshire. His eye had to be stitched closed to prevent further damage.

**Express & Star**, 13 November 2009

A cat has been shot twice with a **pellet gun**, shattering his teeth. His owner from **Walsall**, West Midlands, believes he was used for target practice.

**Bristol Evening Post**, 13 November 2009

Two cats owned by the same man in **Easton**, Bristol, have been the victims of **air rifle** attacks within the space of a few days. One cat returned home with a large puncture wound to one of his back legs. The second cat is lucky to be alive after she was shot in the eye. Both cats are now recovering well.

**This is Plymouth**, 12 November 2009

A kitten has died after being shot in **Plymouth**. The pet was shot three times with an **airgun**. A neighbour found him injured near his home but he died whilst being given emergency treatment.

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

A cat has been left paralysed after being shot in the spine with an **air rifle** in **North Weald**, Essex. He was probably shot from fairly close range as the pellet was quite deep inside.

**Get Surrey**, 11 November 2009

A cat has been shot at close range with an **airgun** in **Guildford**, Surrey. She underwent a four hour emergency operation. A pellet had pierced seven loops of her intestines as well as going through the abdomen and a kidney before becoming lodged in her rib cage.

**Dumfries & Galloway Standard**, 11 November 2009

A cat from **Eaglesfield**, Dumfriesshire, has been shot with an **airgun** for the second time in two months. Vets have had to remove pellets from its body on both occasions.

**This is Nottingham**, 10 November 2009

A cat has had to have a leg amputated after he was shot with an **air rifle** in **Carlton**, Nottingham. A pellet became embedded in a bone.

**Sunderland Echo**, 3 November 2009

Two swans have died after being shot with **airgun** pellets at Herrington Country Park in **Sunderland**. The female, who was shot through the neck, had to be put to sleep straight away and the male, who had injuries to his beak and wing, a day after being found.



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