



OCTOBER 2008 - SUMMARY

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - There were five shooting attacks reported in October which resulted in a victim's death:
 - Three men were murdered in London, in Bermondsey and Kennington in south London and near Brent Cross in north London
 - One of two men shot in the centre of Glasgow died of his wounds - this was the first gun homicide in Scotland since August 2007
 - A man was shot dead at his house in Ditton (Kent)
- A man was shot dead by police in Harold Hill (east London) following a domestic dispute: three firearms were recovered by officers at the scene.
- There were a number of other fatal shooting incidents in which there were apparently no suspicious circumstances:
 - A farmer from Hurstpierpoint (Surrey) died from shotgun injuries
 - A 16-year-old student died of a shotgun wound at home in Longstock (Hampshire)
 - A man apparently shot himself and died in a hospital ward in Northampton
 - A second 16-year-old died of a shotgun wound at a kennels in Paulerspury (Northamptonshire)
- Two other victims died following incidents in which firearms were brandished:
 - A man was found dead after a gunman burst into offices at an industrial park in Pontypool (South Wales): it is thought the gunman was armed with a handgun but this was not fired.
 - A man in his eighties died, apparently of natural causes, two days after he was threatened by armed robbers at his home in Cookham Dean (Berkshire)
- Shooting incidents that resulted in injury occurred in:
 - Birmingham - a man suffered a broken leg when he was shot in Ladywood and another victim was shot in Handsworth
 - Glasgow - as well as the double shooting in the city centre in which one man died and another was seriously injured (see above), a man was shot in the face and stomach in the Calton area
 - Merseyside - a number of victims were injured in incidents in Netherley, Fazakerley, Everton and Halewood
 - Surrey - a man apparently attempted suicide by shooting himself in the face with a shotgun in Englefield Green (Surrey): he remained in a critical condition.
- Other shooting incidents involving Airguns and Imitation Guns also resulted in injury, and these are listed below.
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - There were robberies and attempted robberies by men apparently armed with guns on a building society branch in Ruddington (Nottingham), bookmakers in Carlton (Nottingham), Crawley (Sussex) and Glasgow, a post office in Kings Langley (Hertfordshire), a filling station in Pudsey (West Yorkshire), a store in Ruskington (Lincolnshire), a hair salon in Reddish (Greater Manchester) and a takeaway in Bournemouth. There were six armed robberies at premises in Stockport over a period of 10 days: the same men are believed to be responsible for them all. An armed robber stole more than £5000 worth of items from a business in West Kensington (west London).

- Security guards were robbed at building society branches in Kidderminster (Worcestershire) and Bournemouth (Dorset) and in Knightswood and Shawlands (both in Glasgow). Robbers brandishing a pistol tried to rip a cashpoint out of a wall at a shop in Ancoats (Greater Manchester).
 - A bus driver was held up at gunpoint and his takings stolen in Runcorn (Cheshire). Two taxi drivers in Slough and Britwell in Berkshire were robbed in the space of two days.
 - A teenager with a gun robbed a woman of her handbag in a street in Walker (Tyneside).
 - Youths returned £250 stolen from a pastor in an armed robbery in New Cross (south London).
 - Armed robbers threatened to shoot a man outside his home in Heaton (Bolton) if he did not hand over his car keys. A driver was threatened with a sawn-off shotgun in Tottenham (north London). A 15-year-old was left terrified after being threatened by a man with a gun in a car park in Kettering (Northamptonshire).
 - A couple were robbed in their home in Stanley (County Durham) by two men, one of whom was armed with a gun: a 16-year-old has been arrested. Robbers threatened a pensioner and his son at a home in Cookham Dean (Berkshire) and stole property: the father died 48 hours later apparently of natural causes (see above). Two gunman threatened a man with a handgun in a flat in Ribbleson (Preston).
 - See below for other incidents in which an Imitation Gun is known to have been used.
- **Other Incidents** - A shotgun was fired at a pub in Salford while drinkers were inside. A gunman has targeted a house in Cumbernauld (North Lanarkshire). Shots have been fired at a museum in Montrose (Angus) and there is speculation that the weapon might be a converted air rifle.
 - A rifle was recovered after an incident in Okehampton (Devon) when four people were arrested by armed police.
 - A man was arrested after someone was seen walking through Cotham (Bristol) with a gun.
- **Gun Smuggling, Finds and Losses** - In Greater Manchester a man has been charged with several firearms offences in connection with one of the largest gun smuggling operations in the UK. A woman and a teenage boy have been charged with possession of a firearm after being arrested in Levenshulme. A man has also been charged with possession of a firearm after police seized a key fob gun in Dukinfield.
 - A former firearms dealer has had his licence revoked after more than 400 shotguns and rifles were seized by police from a house in Headington (Oxfordshire): he was held on suspicion of possession of a prohibited weapon and released on bail.
 - Four men were arrested after drugs, cash, a firearm and ammunition were seized by police at an address in Bradford.
 - A haul of bullets and shotgun cartridges were found by police in Huyton (Merseyside). Police in South Yorkshire recovered two air rifles and a ball bearing gun in an operation focused on the movement of stolen scrap.
 - Officers from the UK Border Agency at Stansted Airport found two realistic "airsoft" rifles inside a consignment labelled as plastic toys from Hong Kong: they had been bought by a 17-year-old boy online.
 - A sawn-off shotgun was found in a pond in Partridge Green (Sussex).
 - Four 12 bore shotguns were stolen from a home in Holmewood (Derbyshire). A shotgun and around 200 ammunition cartridges were stolen from a car in Bildeston (Suffolk).

- **Airguns** - There was a further spate of incidents in which airguns were fired at members of the public. This month's victims included:
 - Scouts at a camp in Devoran (Cornwall) who were repeatedly shot at with what is thought to have been an air rifle
 - A teenage boy hit in the shoulder with an air rifle pellet in Burnham-on-Sea (Somerset)
 - Two men and a 12-year-old boy hit by air rifle pellets in Lowestoft (Suffolk)
 - A 10-year-old boy hit in the head after being targeted by teenagers in Bartley Green (Birmingham)
 - Two schoolgirls waiting by tennis courts at a school in Bournemouth, one of whom was injured
 - A golfer shot with an air rifle during an ongoing campaign of vandalism and violence at a golf club in Hounslow (west London)
 - A teenage cyclist hit with what is believed to have been an airgun pellet in Oswestry (Shropshire)
 - A woman who suffered bruising after an airgun attack from a car in Brandon (Suffolk)
 - A woman walking her dogs in Stourport-on-Severn (Worcestershire) hit with an airgun pellet
 - A teenage paperboy who was shot at with an air weapon by a gang of youths in Peterborough
 - Young people fired at whilst working in a park in Dawdon (County Durham)
 - A woman shot with an airgun whilst she was sitting outside a bar in Bristol
 - A binman shot in the neck as he collected rubbish in Cardiff: two men were arrested on suspicion of possessing an air rifle
 - A woman needed medical attention after being hit in the face with an airgun pellet in Paisley (Renfrewshire)
 - A man shot in a drive-by shooting in Partick (Glasgow)
- A jogger believes an air rifle pellet missed him by inches as he crossed a path in Askham Richard, near York: he says he tripped over cans in a road which had been set up as shooting targets.
- Bus drivers in Barnstaple (Devon) have warned that they might refuse to work on one service because of fears that a roadside sniper is targeting buses. A car was hit in an airgun attack in Haverhill (Suffolk).
- In Devon a man was arrested in Tavistock after he had stormed off from a psychiatric unit and was believed to be in possession of an air rifle. A man was charged with various offences after an airgun was allegedly fired in Uffculme.
- A window was hit by an airgun pellet and a pigeon was killed at neighbouring houses in Bournemouth. An airgun was fired at a window in Wildmill (Glamorgan), shattering glass.
- A man is being sought after being seen firing an air rifle at street lights and windows in Mytholmroyd and Luddenden Foot in West Yorkshire. In Paisley (Renfrewshire) a man was arrested for firing an air rifle from premises, and staff at a restaurant were threatened by two males carrying an air weapon.
- **Police Responses to Airgun and Imitation Gun Incidents** - There have been a number of instances this month in which victims or their parents have complained about the inadequacy of some police responses to incidents involving airguns and imitation guns. The impact of such incidents on victims cannot be underestimated and they merit appropriate and urgent attention. Those who have complained during October have included:

- The family of a boy hit in the head outside the family home in Bartley Green (Birmingham) who are angry that police let the attackers walk away after issuing a caution
 - The parent of a schoolgirl who was targeted with an airgun in Bournemouth
 - A jogger who claims he was shot at with an air rifle in Askham Richard (North Yorkshire) says the police failed to speak to him about the incident and took the word of the men with rifles
 - A family who witnessed a pigeon being killed with an airgun in their garden in Bournemouth
 - A father whose son was shot at by youths in Peterborough
 - A woman whose home was attacked by yobs firing a ball bearing gun in Stretford - an officer only came to see her after she reported a third incident
- **Imitation Guns** - A number of people were hit by shots from imitation guns:
 - A woman was shot in the knee with a ball-bearing gun pellet in Swindon (Wiltshire)
 - A cyclist was hit in the face by ball-bearing gun pellets fired from a car in Weston-super-Mare (Somerset)
 - A man was shot three times with a gas-powered ball-bearing pistol in a racist attack in South Norwood (south London)
 - A nine-year-old girl was shot in the eye with a BB gun near her home in Carfin (North Lanarkshire)
 - A pupil at a school in Crossmyloof (Glasgow) was hit near the eye with a BB gun pellet
 - A teenage boy fired a BB gun at a man standing outside a pub in Bellshill (North Lanarkshire).
 - A 12-year-old boy was robbed at gunpoint in Herne Bay (Kent): an imitation handgun was recovered and three suspects arrested. A man has been charged with robbery using an imitation firearm after an attempt to rob a bank in Blackpool. A 15-year-old was charged after an attempted robbery at a shop in Bilton (Rugby) when he was armed with a BB gun.
 - Ball bearing guns were fired windows of homes in Kingsmead (Staffordshire) and Stretford (Manchester).
 - A car being driven by a mother in Pinhoe (Devon) was hit with a ball bearing.
 - A number of teenagers have been charged after police swooped on four homes in Widnes (Cheshire) following an alleged incident involving imitation guns in a park in the town.
 - A 13-year-old pupil has been expelled from a school in Kettering (Northamptonshire) after he fired several shots from a ball bearing gun around the classroom.
 - A man brandishing what may have been an imitation gun chased a 13-year-old boy in Ormesby (Teesside).
 - A number of people were arrested or charged for possessing imitation weapons:
 - A male youth has been charged with possession of an imitation gun on a street in Inverness
 - A teenage girl was helping police with their inquiries after they discovered two BB guns in a flat in Banstead (Surrey): a street was closed after she was seen brandishing a handgun
 - A youth filmed by friends pointing a replica AK47 replica rifle at cars in High Wycombe (Buckinghamshire) was arrested and the weapon seized

- A 17-year-old was arrested after allegedly threatening a number of people in Loughborough (Leicestershire) with a replica gun
 - A woman in Paisley was arrested in possession of a replica self-loading pistol
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - More cats have fallen victim to airgun snipers. Incidents in which pets were seriously injured, sometimes fatally, were reported from Buckinghamshire, Cheshire, Devon (two reports), Norfolk, South Wales, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Sussex and West Lothian (two cats from the same home have been attacked)
 - A cow was found at a farm in Leicestershire with an airgun pellet in the side of its neck: a number of other cows have been the target of attacks, and two boys, aged 11 and 12, have been spoken to by the police.
 - A donkey was lucky to survive after being shot with an airgun in Belton (Norfolk).
 - A man was fined for killing two protected birds with an airgun while shooting outside his home Aberdeen.
 - Two sheep were found dead from gunshot wounds near Grantham (Lincolnshire).
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- **Convictions** - Three men were convicted of the murder of a man who was ambushed and shot as he walked home from a pub in Hartcliffe (Bristol). A man has been found guilty of the murder of a man who was shot in the neck and leg at a bar in Fulham (west London): he will serve at least 28 years. Two men have been convicted of the murder of a man who was fatally shot in Brockley (south London).
- A man must serve at least six years after pleading guilty to a number of offences following a shooting in Huyton (Merseyside) in which a man was seriously wounded. A man has been jailed for six years for possession of a firearm after a shooting in Letchworth Garden City (Hertfordshire). A man has been found guilty of shooting a man in the leg over a drug debt in Handsworth Wood (West Midlands): he was also convicted of possessing a stun gun and drug offences.
- A man who accidentally shot a teenage girl in the head at a party in Gorton (Manchester) admitted a number of charges including possession of a firearm and possession of an imitation firearm.
- A man has been jailed for at least six years for a number of robbery and firearm offences, including robberies in Feltham and Isleworth (west London). Four men were convicted over a series of armed robberies across southern England which ended when police shot and killed two other members of the gang in Chandler's Ford (Hampshire).
- A man was jailed for 32 months after keeping his sister and brother-in-law at gunpoint in Alness (Ross-shire). Another man has been jailed for nine years after being found guilty of staging an armed raid on the home of his sister in Pilton (Edinburgh).
- Sentencing was deferred on a woman who admitted assault repeatedly presenting a handgun or imitation handgun at another woman in Troon (Ayrshire).
- Three men who used a stun gun whilst attacking another man in Newmains (North Lanarkshire) have been jailed for four years and nine months.
- There were a number of convictions of people caught in possession of prohibited firearms:

- A man and his girlfriend received sentences of eight and five years, respectively, for possession of a sawn-off shotgun in Handsworth (Birmingham)
 - A man has been jailed for five years for possessing a sawn-off shotgun at his caravan in Ryton (Warwickshire)
 - A man was jailed for five-and-a-half years for minding two guns: a loaded pistol had been found under his pillow at a house in Broad Green (Merseyside)
 - Two men were jailed for seven-and-a-half years after pleading guilty to having two loaded pistols in a car outside a pub in Derby
 - A man from Allerton (Derby) has pleaded guilty to a drugs offence and possessing a firearm and ammunition
 - A man has been given a five-and-a-half year sentence after a shotgun was found in the boot of his car in Lydd (Kent)
 - A man pleaded guilty to possessing a shotgun and ammunition in Oldham: he was jailed for five years
 - A man pleaded guilty to a number of firearm offences after guns were found in a car in Wigan
 - Two men were given jail terms of five years and four months after they hid a sawn-off double-barrel shotgun in long grass in Lancaster
 - A man was jailed for five years after being caught with a pistol in Possil Park (Glasgow)
- **Airguns (Court Cases)** - A coroner recorded a verdict of misadventure at an inquest into the death of a 17-year-old who was shot in the heart with an air rifle in Maesglas (Newport).
 - Two men who were armed with an airgun when they attempted to rob a post office in Consett (County Durham) have been given four year jail sentences.
 - The list of convictions of many other offenders who were armed with airguns reflects the continuing ease of availability of these weapons to those who would misuse them.
 - A man who threatened to shoot a schoolboy with an airgun in Moortown (Leeds) has been jailed for six months
 - A man arrested by armed police after brandishing an airgun in Copley (West Yorkshire) was given a conditional discharge
 - A man jailed for 20 months for terrifying police officers in Bamber Bridge (Lancashire) with an air pistol failed to win a reduction in his sentence
 - An eight month jail sentence was given at an Ipswich court to a man who attacked his partner and fired shots from an air rifle
 - A man faces a lengthy jail term for threatening a man with an airgun in Gosport (Hampshire)
 - A man who pointed an air rifle at people at a Rochdale hospital has been given an indeterminate jail sentence (minimum of 618 days)
 - A man was jailed for a year after he brandished an air rifle during an argument in Leyland (Lancashire)
 - A man was convicted of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after showing an air pistol to a man at a bus depot in Bures (Suffolk)
 - A 16-year-old has been given 120 hours of community service after firing an air rifle from his attic skylight into the street in Uphall (West Lothian)
 - A teenager has been given 200 hours of community service after threatening to shoot police officers in Penicuik (Midlothian) with an air rifle

- A man was ordered to carry out 100 hours of community service after firing shots from a balcony of a block of flats in Paisley (Renfrewshire)
- A man was caught with a loaded air weapon in woods in Livingston (West Lothian): sentencing has been deferred
- A Swindon woman admitted having an air pistol with intent to cause another woman to fear unlawful violence: she has been warned to expect a prison sentence.
- A teenager was told to "keep out of trouble" after shooting his neighbour's garden ornaments with an air rifle in Westerham (Kent).
- **Imitation Guns (Court Cases)** - A man who fired an imitation Colt revolver through the window of a house in Derby has been given a three-and-a-half year sentence.
- A man from Fareham (Hampshire) who has been convicted of three specimen offences relating to sexual assault on a child had apparently threatened his victim with a ball bearing gun.
- A man was jailed for two years and two months after pleading guilty to assault and possessing an imitation firearm which he used in an attack on a man in Blackpool.
- A man who threatened staff and customers at a charity shop in Bridlington (East Yorkshire) with an imitation gun has been treated for a personality disorder and will be sentenced later. Two men who raided a number of premises in Bolton whilst armed with imitation guns are awaiting sentencing. Two 16-year-olds who pleaded guilty robbing a shop in Abington (Northampton) were also armed with an imitation firearm: they have been sentenced to two years and 18 months detention.

GUN INCIDENTS – OCTOBER 2008

ENGLAND

West Sussex County Times, 31 October 2008

A sawn-off shotgun has been found dumped in a pond in **Partridge Green**, Sussex. It was covered in thick mud. The weapon had been modified to the style used by criminals.

Watford Observer, 31 October 2008

A masked robber threatened post office staff at gunpoint in **Kings Langley**, Hertfordshire. The man brandished a silver handgun and ordered staff to hand over what is believed to be a substantial amount of cash.

This is North Devon, 31 October 2008

A roadside sniper is targeting buses travelling through a housing estate in **Barnstaple**, Devon, it is claimed. Bus drivers have warned managers they might refuse to work on one service because of fears for their safety and that of their passengers. An **airgun** pellet hit a bus windscreen leaving a hole in the glass.

This is Bristol, 30 October 2008

A former student was shot with an **airgun** whilst drinking a glass of wine outside a bar in **Bristol**. She felt a sudden stinging pain in her neck.

Suffolk Free Press, 30 October 2008

Paul Cunningham has been convicted of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He showed an **air pistol** to a worker at a bus depot in **Bures**, Suffolk, whom he suspected of knowing who had stolen his car in June 2008. In his defence Cunningham had admitted ownership of the gun but that he had used it only for shooting rats at a scrapyard. He will be sentenced later.

Mail, 30 October 2008

A 16-year-old has been killed in a shooting incident at the headquarters of a hunt in **Pauterspury**, Northamptonshire. His body was discovered in one of the kennels. It is not known how and why he was able to get hold of a shotgun. Police are not treating the death as suspicious. A post mortem has revealed that he died from a gunshot wound to the head (*Northampton Chronicle & Echo*, 4 November 2008).

Mail, 30 October 2008

A pensioner in his eighties died less than 48 hours after robbers threatened him and his son with a shotgun at his home in **Cookham Dean**, Berkshire. The thieves stole property. An initial post-mortem suggested that death was due to natural causes.

Evening Courier, 30 October 2008

A man has been firing an **air rifle** at street lights and windows in the **Mytholmroyd** and **Luddenden Foot** areas in West Yorkshire. Police wish to speak to him about the criminal damage.

Echo (Essex), 30 October 2008

A man blasted himself in the face with a shotgun in front of police in a failed suicide bid. He was left with severe facial injuries after the incident in **Englefield Green**, Surrey. He remains in a critical condition.

BBC, 30 October 2008

A man was being treated in hospital after being shot in the hand in **Halewood**, Merseyside. Police believe he was the victim of a targeted attack.

BBC, 30 October 2008

A teenager armed with a gun attacked and robbed a woman as she walked along a road in **Walker**, Tyneside. The robber stole her handbag. Police said they did not know if the gun was real or an **imitation weapon**.

Tottenham, Wood Green & Edmonton Journal, 29 October 2008

A man fled his car when two hooded men threatened him with what is believed to have been a sawn-off shotgun in **Tottenham**, north London.

This is Kent, 29 October 2008

A 12-year-old boy was robbed at gunpoint as he walked through **Herne Bay**, Kent. Three suspects, both teenagers, were later arrested. An **imitation handgun** was recovered soon after the robbery.

This is Kent, 29 October 2008

Maxwell Brown, 18, from **Westerham**, Kent, has been told to "keep out of trouble" after shooting his neighbour's garden ornaments with an **air rifle**. He pleaded guilty to criminal damage.

Sunderland Echo, 29 October 2008

An **airgun** was fired at young people working in a park in **Dawdon**, County Durham, as the team were cutting back trees. It is believed that the weapon had a telescopic sight and was fired with a silencer.

Runcorn & Widnes World, 29 October 2008

Armed police swooped on four homes in **Widnes**, Cheshire, after an alleged incident involving **imitation guns** in a town park earlier in the month. They seized a number of items, believed to be imitation firearms. A 19-year-old has been charged with possession of an imitation firearm in a public place with intent to cause fear of violence. Two 16-year-old boys have been charged with the same offence. A fourth teenager received a reprimand.

Leyland Guardian, 29 October 2008

Michael Parkinson has been jailed for a year after he brandished a **.177 air rifle** during an argument over girls in **Leyland**, Lancashire, in May 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). A shot was heard and a tin of pellets was later recovered from bushes.

The Gazette (Blackpool), 29 October 2008

Philip Hartless has been jailed for two years and two months after pleading guilty to assault and possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence. The conviction follows an attack on a man in a **Blackpool** takeaway in May 2008. Armed with the gun Hartless hit his victim over the head before the man struggled and tried to grab the gun. He was arrested later.

Fleetwood Weekly News, 29 October 2008

A shotgun was fired at a pub in **Salford** when drinkers were inside. Police recovered two shotgun cartridges and found a bullet hole on an internal door. No-one was injured.

Evening Telegraph (Peterborough), 29 October 2008

A teenage paperboy was shot at by a gang of skateboard-riding youths while doing his round in **Peterborough**. He believes the weapon was an **air rifle**. He was left shaken and in tears after the incident. The victim's father said he felt let down by the police who took more than five hours to respond to his call after the event.

BBC, 29 October 2008

A man seen carrying a gun has been shot dead in the street by police in **Harold Hill**, east London. The police had been responding to an apparent domestic dispute between a man and a woman. Firearms have been recovered from the scene. The Directorate of Public Standards and the Independent Police Complaints Commission have been informed. It is reported that he had the man had brandished a gun at children (*Telegraph*, 29 October 2008).

This is Exeter, 28 October 2008

A mother driving with her 4-year-old daughter in **Pinhoe**, Devon, was fired at. A **ball-bearing** hit the driver's door. She says she could have crashed if the shot had been 1 ft higher and smashed her window. A mechanic at a nearby garage had also heard shots from an air weapon earlier in the day.

Lakeland Echo, 28 October 2008

Daniel Doherty and Stuart Taggart were each given jail terms of five years and four months after a court heard how they tried to hide a sawn-off double-barrel shotgun in long grass in **Lancaster**. The gun was found when a council worker went to trim the grass in June 2007. Both men pleaded guilty to a charge of possessing a prohibited firearm.

Worcester News, 27 October 2008

A woman has been shot as she walked her dogs in **Stourport-on-Severn**, Worcestershire. She felt a short sharp pain under her arm and later realised she had a small puncture wound. An x-ray showed an **airgun** pellet was lodged under her skin.

This is Lancashire, 27 October 2008

Faton Peqici was arrested for carrying five guns in a car which was stopped in **Wigan** in June 2008. He pleaded guilty to possessing firearms and ammunition with intent to endanger life, possession of a prohibited weapon without a firearm certificate and possession of ammunition without a firearm certificate. He will be sentenced at a later date. Another man is standing trial for the same offences.

Leigh Journal, 27 October 2008

A man who photographed himself holding a gun has been jailed for five years after a shotgun and ammunition were recovered in **Oldham**. Gavin Whiteman pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited weapon. The gun was found after police were called to a disturbance in December 2007.

East Anglian Daily Times, 27 October 2008

A shotgun and around 200 ammunition cartridges were stolen from a car parked in **Bildeston**, Suffolk. A window was smashed and items were taken from the vehicle.

Kent Online, 25 October 2008

John McDonagh was seen acting suspiciously driving his car with two other men in **Lydd**, Kent. Police who were called found a shotgun wrapped in a towel in the boot. He has been sentenced to five-and-a-half years after admitting possessing a prohibited firearms and a further nine months for breaching a suspended term for burglary.

The Gazette (Blackpool), 25 October 2008

A man has been charged following a failed attempt to rob a bank in **Blackpool**. He has been charged with robbery using an **imitation firearm** and also with being in possession of a firearm.

BBC, 25 October 2008

A robber threatened staff at a hair salon in **Reddish**, Greater Manchester, with a gun and demanded cash from the till. He left the shop with the takings.

East Anglian Daily Times, 24 October 2008

Suffolk Police are appealing for information after two **airgun** attacks. A motorist was shot at on a roundabout in **Haverhill**. The next day a woman walking in **Brandon** was fired at from a moving car and suffered bruising.

Western Daily Press, 23 October 2008

A man armed with an **air rifle** has been arrested after a four-hour siege at a house in **Tredworth**, Gloucester. Police were called after reports the man was threatening to harm himself and damage the house.

Swindon Advertiser, 23 October 2008

A woman was shot in the knee with a pellet from a **ball bearing gun** in a drive-by shooting in **Swindon**. The pellet caused a round cut, bruising and swelling.

Evening Gazette, 23 October 2008

A man is on trial accused of trying to kill another man in a drive-by shooting in **Grange Town**, Middlesbrough, in August 2007. He denies charges of attempted murder, possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life and possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He was found not guilty on all charges (*BBC*, 29 October 2008).

BBC, 23 October 2008

Two men have been jailed for possessing firearms and ammunition. Paul Webster and Adrian Keeling pleaded guilty to having two loaded pistols in a car outside a pub in **Derby**. Both men were sentenced to seven-and-a-half years in prison. In a separate case Ferrari Forrest-Clarke, 18, from **Allerton** pleaded guilty to a drugs offence, possessing a firearm and also possessing several types of ammunition. He will be sentenced later.

BBC, 23 October 2008

A drug dealer has been found guilty of a number of offences including shooting a man twice in the leg over a drug debt in an alleyway in **Handsworth Wood**, West Midlands, in August 2007. Andre Singh was also convicted of possessing a stun gun without a firearms certificate, of wounding with intent and having cocaine with intent to supply. He will be sentenced at a later date.

Herts and Essex Observer, 22 October 2008

A 17-year-old bought himself **replica guns** online using his parents' credit card. Officers from the UK Border Agency at **Stansted Airport** found two realistic "airsoft" rifles inside a consignment labelled as plastic toys posted from Hong Kong. The weapons will be destroyed. Enquiries are ongoing.

BBC, 22 October 2008

A 17-year-old was arrested in **Loughborough** after several people were allegedly threatened with a **replica gun**. A great deal of distress was caused to members of the public.

The Star, 21 October 2008

Among items recovered by police during an operation focusing on the movement of stolen scrap in **South Yorkshire** were two **air rifles** and a **ball bearing gun**.

Southern Daily Echo, 21 October 2008

Jason Fleet of **Fareham**, Hampshire, who has been convicted of three specimen offences of indecent assault, sexual assault on a child and sexual activity with a child, had apparently threatened to shoot his victim in the face with a **ball bearing gun**.

Manchester Evening News, 21 October 2008

Scott Charlton pointed an **air rifle** at receptionists and patients at a hospital in **Rochdale**, Lancashire, in December 2007 (see [January 2008 Incidents](#)). He has been given an indeterminate sentence with a minimum of 618 days. He claimed he was depressed and drunk.

Lancashire Evening Post, 21 October 2008

Two gunmen burst into a flat in **Ribbleton**, Preston, and threatened a man with a handgun. The victim was punched and kicked whilst his wife screamed at the men to stop.

Daily Echo, 21 October 2008

A building society branch in **Westbourne**, Bournemouth, was targeted by an armed robber. He forced two men delivering cash to lie on the floor as he and two accomplices fled with a quantity of cash. In a separate incident a fast-food takeaway in **Westbourne** was targeted by an armed robber who made off with a small amount of money.

Crawley Observer, 21 October 2008

A masked raider, armed with a sawn-off shotgun, held staff at a bookmakers in **Crawley**, Sussex, at gunpoint. He took an undisclosed sum of cash before fleeing on foot.

Border Counties Advertiser, 21 October 2008

A teenager was struck on the arm with what is believed to be an **airgun** pellet as he cycled home in **Oswestry**, Shropshire. The shot appears to have been fired from a car.

BBC, 21 October 2008

A 13-year-old boy was chased by a man brandishing what police said may have been an **imitation gun** in **Ormesby**, Teesside. The boy escaped shaken but uninjured.

Northern Echo, 20 October 2008

An inquest jury has ruled that a man who died after he was shot by his own gun was killed by accident. The loaded double-barrelled shotgun discharged, hitting him in the neck and head, killing him instantly. The accident occurred near **Frosterley**, Weardale, in August 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). It is believed he was intending to shoot red grouse on moorland. It is possible that the weapon was triggered by a buckle in his Wellington boot.

Northants Evening Telegraph, 20 October 2008

A man apparently shot himself in a hospital ward in **Northampton**. Police were called and discovered the man had died of a gunshot wound. A firearm was recovered from the scene.

Daily Echo, 20 October 2008

Further questions about the priority given by Dorset police to **airgun** incidents (see below) have been raised by a family after an incident at their home in **Bournemouth**, Dorset. Shots from a pellet gun killed a pigeon in the family's garden after a neighbour, who also witnessed the incident, had his own window hit earlier. Officers only attended the following morning.

Community News, 20 October 2008

Police are investigating six armed robberies at various premises in **Stockport**, Greater Manchester, over a period of 10 days. A similar method was used. One of the offenders, who is armed with a gun, goes into the business and commits the robbery a second man stands at the door. Both men are described as teenagers who demand cash from staff and customers.

BBC, 20 October 2008

A man has been charged by **Greater Manchester** Police with several firearms offences in connection with one of the largest gun smuggling operations in the UK.

Asian News, 20 October 2008

A woman and a teenage boy have been charged with possession of a firearm after they were arrested in **Levenshulme**, Greater Manchester.

BBC, 19 October 2008

A man was in hospital and four people in custody after armed police surrounded two houses in **Okehampton**, Devon. A rifle was recovered.

Mid Devon Star, 18 October 2008

A man has been charged with possession of cannabis, criminal damage to a car window and possession of a loaded **air weapon** after an airgun was allegedly fired in **Uffculme**, Devon.

Liverpool Echo, 18 October 2008

Liam O'Brien has been jailed after a loaded pistol was discovered under his pillow at his father's house in **Broad Green**, Merseyside. Months later his fingerprints were also found on a sawn-off shotgun. He has been jailed for five-and-a-half years after he admitted minding the guns.

Express & Star, 18 October 2008

Security guards were threatened outside a building society branch in **Kidderminster**, Worcestershire. They were challenged by three men carrying firearms. The robbers grabbed an undisclosed sum of money.

Crawley Observer, 18 October 2008

Police were called to a house in **Ditton**, Kent, following a report that a man had been shot. He had received fatal injuries.

BBC, 18 October 2008

Two men armed with a sawn-off shotgun robbed a store in **Ruskington**, Lincolnshire. They left with an undisclosed amount of money.

BBC, 18 October 2008

Two men are believed to have been armed with a stun gun when they stole a car in **Handsworth**, Birmingham. The car's owner was attacked when he stopped to use his mobile phone.

Press Association, 17 October 2008

A man has been shot dead in the street in **Kennington**, south London. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Three men have been arrested in connection with the shooting (*BBC*, 22 October 2008).

Manchester Evening News, 17 October 2008

A woman was watching TV at her home in **Stretford**, Manchester, when shots from a **ball bearing gun** were fired through her window. One narrowly missed her partner. She claims that the police were dismissive and would not come out as it was not a real gun.

Leamington Spa Courier, 17 October 2008

David Fellows has been jailed for five years for firing a sawn-off shotgun in his caravan home in **Ryton**, Warwickshire, before reloading it and hiding it under his bed. He was already subject to a suspended prison sentence for brandishing a Samurai sword at police. He claimed he had found the weapon and intended to hand it in. He initially denied possessing the firearm in February 2008 but later changed his plea.

Hounslow Chronicle, 17 October 2008

Nicholas Smith threatened staff at over 20 bookmakers, including branches in **Feltham** and **Isleworth**, west London, with a handgun. He has now been jailed for at least six years after pleading guilty to eight robbery and firearms offences, with another 14 still lying on file.

Hounslow Chronicle, 17 October 2008

Troublemakers have been targeting **Hounslow Heath** golf club in west London. There has been a campaign of vandalism and violence and one golfer has been shot with an **air rifle**.

Evening Chronicle, 17 October 2008

Two men have been jailed after attempting to rob a post office in **Consett**, County Durham, whilst armed with an **airgun** and what is believed to have been a knife. They fled when the postmaster spotted them coming. Alan Palmer was sentenced to four years in jail for the robbery, six months for possessing an imitation weapon and six weeks for the breach. Paul Davison was given four years for robbery and six months for carrying the airgun.

The Comet, 17 October 2008

Richard Scott has been jailed for six years for possession of a firearm and 18 months for affray, to run concurrently. He was cleared of attempted murder. The trial followed the shooting of two men in **Letchworth Garden City**, Hertfordshire, in August 2007 (see [Incidents](#)).

Birmingham Mail, 17 October 2008

Andell Butcher has been jailed for eight years after being convicted of possession of a firearm. He dropped a sawn-off shotgun and cartridges when he leapt from the rear bedroom of his girlfriend's flat in **Handsworth** in January when police raided it to look for a stolen puppy. His girlfriend, Cassandra March, was also convicted of possession of a firearm and jailed for five years.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 16 October 2008

Two masked men robbed a filling station in **Pudsey**, West Yorkshire, at gunpoint. They threatened a woman cashier whilst brandishing a silver handgun. They stole money from the cash drawer and the woman's handbag.

Swindon Advertiser, 16 October 2008

Stacey Thompson of **Penhill**, Swindon, has admitted having an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. She had an **air pistol** with intent to cause another woman to fear unlawful violence in May 2008. She has been warned to expect a prison sentence.

The Press, 16 October 2008

A jogger had a narrow escape when he claims an **air rifle** pellet missed him by inches as he crossed the path of a shooting range set up on a public highway in **Askham Richard**, near York. He almost tripped over a line of cans in the road and then saw a man pointing a rifle directly at him. The man was stunned by the reaction of the police who said they found a group of men with guns but in a field and not on the public highway. He questions why the police did not interview him and spoke only to the men with rifles.

Independent, 16 October 2008

Two men, Delphon Nicholas and Trevor Dennie have been convicted of the murder of Andrew Wanoghu who was fatally shot in **Brockley**, south London, in April 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). Three other men were cleared of murder.

Daily Echo, 16 October 2008

Two 12-year-old girls were shot at with an **airgun** while they waited by the tennis courts at a school in **Bournemouth**, Dorset. One of them was struck on the leg, the second girl was uninjured. One parent has criticised the police, who delayed attending, for not taking the incident more seriously.

Epping Forest, Waltham Forest, Wanstead & Woodford Guardian, 15 October 2008

A court has been told that three men raped women at gunpoint during a campaign of robberies in brothels across **east London**. The case continues.

BBC, 15 October 2008

More than 400 shotguns and rifles have been seized from a house in **Headington**, Oxfordshire. A former firearms dealer has had his licence revoked. The police received a tip-off that the owner of the house had more guns than he was allowed to own. A man was held on suspicion of possession of a prohibited weapon and released on police bail.

Northants Evening Telegraph, 14 October 2008

Two 16-year-olds threatened a staff member with an **imitation firearm**, a black metallic pistol, during an off-licence robbery in **Abington**, Northampton, in January 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). They were pushed into carrying out the raid by older offenders. They pleaded guilty to robbery. The younger teenager, who produced the gun, was sentenced to two years' detention, the other to 18 months' detention.

Bolton News, 14 October 2008

Armed raiders threatened to shoot a man outside his own home in **Heaton** if he did not hand over his car keys.

Birmingham Mail, 14 October 2008

A ten-year-old boy narrowly escaped injury after being targeted by a gang of teenagers who shot him in the head with an **airgun** outside his family home in **Bartley Green**, Birmingham. The victim's family is angry that the police let the attackers walk away after issuing a caution and he has lodged an official complaint.

Lowestoft Journal, 13 October 2008

Two men have been shot with **air rifle** pellets in **Lowestoft**, Suffolk. One was hit on the wrist as he got out of his car. The other victim went to his assistance and was struck on the elbow. Both pellets had gone through clothing to cause their wounds. Police have arrested a man in connection with the incidents and another in which a 12-year-old boy was hurt (*East Anglian Daily Times*, 20 October 2008).

BBC, 12 October 2008

Armed police officers were called to deal with a large gang of youths in the centre of **Derby** after being told that one of the group was carrying a firearm. Nothing was found.

Northants Evening Telegraph, 11 October 2008

A 15-year-old boy was left terrified after being threatened with a gun in the car park of a **Kettering** supermarket. A man jumped from a car and waved what the boy believes was a gun at him.

Liverpool Echo, 11 October 2008

Lee Farley, 20, has pleaded guilty to three counts of wounding with intent, possession of a firearm and possession of ammunition following a shooting in **Huyton**, Merseyside, in May 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He shot his victim in the stomach with a semi-automatic weapon in front of the man's family. His victim needed treatment for life-threatening injuries. He was given an indeterminate sentence and will serve no less than six years.

BBC, 11 October 2008

A man has been charged with possession of a firearm after police seized a key fob gun during a stop and search operation in **Dukinfield**, Greater Manchester. The gun is capable of firing two .22 bullets at close range.

The News (Portsmouth), 10 October 2008

Justin Lewis faces a lengthy jail term for threatening a man with a gun and possessing a haul of cocaine and amphetamines. He had confronted a man in a lay-by in **Gosport**, Hampshire, in September 2007. He showed the man the handle of a gun which was tucked into his trousers. Lewis admitted threatening him with an **airgun**. He will be sentenced later.

Evening Star, 10 October 2008

Thomas Temple fired shots from an **air rifle** and attacked his partner during a drink-fuelled night of violence. He also brandished a gun at a neighbour in April 2008. At a court in **Ipswich** he admitted charges of common assault, affray and criminal damage and will serve eight months in jail.

Burton Mail, 10 October 2008

A **ball-bearing gun** has been fired through the lounge window of a home in **Kingsmead**, Staffordshire. The window was damaged but no one was hit.

BBC, 10 October 2008

Three youths robbed a pastor and his two colleagues of £250 at gunpoint in **New Cross**, south east London. Two youths later handed back the cash. The pastor is an anti gun-crime activist. The robbery was not reported to the police.

Liverpool Echo, 9 October 2008

Police officers found a haul of bullets and shotgun cartridges in a street in **Huyton**, Merseyside, which has been the scene of a spate of shootings in the past 12 months.

Liverpool Echo, 9 October 2008

In a third shooting in Liverpool in the space of 26 hours a man was shot in the leg near a pub in **Everton**. The victim was in a stable condition in hospital. Police say they have no reason to believe that there any links between this attack and those in Netherley and Fazakerley.

Birmingham Mail, 9 October 2008

A man is on trial accused of being one of four people in a car from which a gun was fired at a police officer in **Aston**, Birmingham. He denies charges of attempted murder, possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

West Yorkshire Police, 8 October 2008

Four men have been arrested after a significant amount of drugs, cash and a firearm and ammunition were seized by police from an address in the **Barkerend** area of Bradford.

This is Nottingham, 8 October 2008

Three men threatened staff at a building society branch in **Ruddington**, Nottingham, with a gun and escaped with a sum of cash.

This is Nottingham, 8 October 2008

Police are investigating an attempted armed robbery at a bookmakers in **Carlton**, Nottingham. A man pointed a gun at staff but he and an accomplice fled empty-handed after staff shut themselves behind a secure door and phoned police.

Reuters, 8 October 2008

Kanyanta Mulenga has been found guilty of the murder of a man who was shot in the neck and leg after an argument about smoking at a bar in **Fulham**, west London, in July 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). Two other men have been cleared of murder and a fourth man faces a separate trial. Mulenga has been jailed for at least 28 years (*Reuters*, 9 October 2008).

Liverpool Echo, 8 October 2008

A man was shot in the leg in a drive-by attack in **Fazakerley**, Liverpool. His injuries are not thought to be life-threatening and he was being treated in hospital.

BBC, 8 October 2008

A man is recovering in hospital after being shot in **Netherley**, Liverpool. Local residents reported hearing three loud bangs and found the victim with a single gunshot wound to his foot. The injury is not life-threatening.

Northampton Evening Telegraph, 7 October 2008

A 13-year-old pupil has been expelled from a school in **Kettering**, Northamptonshire, after he fired several shots from a **ball bearing gun** around the classroom. The incident took place in September.

Manchester Evening News, 7 October 2008

Robbers tried to rip a cashpoint out of a wall during a botched raid at a shop in **Ancoats**, Greater Manchester. They ran into the shop and brandished a pistol and ordered customers to leave. The store manager activated a panic alarm and the men left empty handed.

Mail, 7 October 2008

A man was shot three times with a **gas-powered ball-bearing pistol** in a street in **South Norwood**, south London. It is suggested he was shot because he was wearing an Obama T-shirt. A piece of metal was removed from the victim's jaw.

London Informer, 7 October 2008

An armed robber stole more than £5,000 of items from a business in **West Kensington**, west London. He was holding a black bulky looking handgun.

Lancashire Evening Post, 7 October 2008

Paul Nowell was jailed for 20 months in June 2008 for terrifying police officers with an **air pistol** when they knocked on his door in **Bamber Bridge**, Lancashire. The police had been responding to a disturbance between neighbours in March 2007. Nowell had admitted possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence during the incident which occurred in March 2007. He has failed to win a reduction in his sentence.

BBC, 7 October 2008

A man was arrested after someone was seen walking through the **Cotham** area of Bristol with what is thought to have been a gun. A gun was being examined to see whether it was a real or a **replica firearm**.

BBC, 7 October 2008

A cyclist was hit in the face by **ball-bearing gun** pellets fired from a car in **Weston-super-Mare**, Somerset. He was not seriously hurt.

Press Association, 6 October 2008

A second man has been shot dead in London. Police found his body when they searched premises near **Brent Cross**, north west London. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

BBC, 5 October 2008

A man was shot dead inside a nightclub in **Bermondsey**, south London. He was pronounced dead at hospital. A murder inquiry has started.

BBC, 5 October 2008

Berkshire police believe that two armed robberies on taxi drivers may be linked. In one three men booked a taxi and were taken to a pub in **Slough** where they threatened the driver with a gun, hit him in the face and stole cash and other property. Two days later a driver who picked up four men in **Britwell** was attacked and threatened with a pistol.

Sky News, 4 October 2008

A youth who was filmed by friends as he walked out into a country road in **High Wycombe**, Buckinghamshire, pointing a **replica AK47 rifle** at oncoming cars has been tracked down by police. He was arrested and the replica weapon seized.

Burnham-on-Sea.com, 4 October 2008

Police in **Burnham-on-Sea**, Somerset, were investigating an incident after a teenage boy walking outside a fish bar was shot in the shoulder by an **air rifle**.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 3 October 2008

Andrew Riley threatened to shoot a schoolboy with an **airgun** after he thought youths were deliberately kicking a rugby ball at his window in **Moortown**, Leeds. He shouted "I will kill you, wait till I get you" and chased the three teenagers in his car. He caught up with them at a shopping centre in Moor Allerton and threatened one boy with the gun. He has been jailed for six months after he admitted possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and common assault. A not guilty verdict was recorded on a charge of attempted kidnap after no evidence was offered by the prosecution.

Southern Daily Echo, 3 October 2008

A 16-year-old student who was found dead at home in **Longstock**, Hampshire, died of a shotgun wound. The police have said that the death was not being treated as suspicious and there was no investigation into any reports of illegally held firearms.

BBC, 3 October 2008

A man is in hospital following a shooting in **Handsworth**, Birmingham. His injuries were not believed to be life-threatening. Another man has been arrested.

BBC, 3 October 2008

Four men have been convicted over a series of armed robberies across southern England. Terence Wallace, Adrian Johnson, Leroy Wilkinson and Victor Iniodu had all denied conspiracy to rob. The gang's activities were eventually stopped when gang leader Mark Nunes and a second man, Andrew Markland were shot dead by armed police officers during an attempted robbery in **Chandler's Ford**, Hampshire, in September 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). Nunes was holding a gun to a security guard's head at the time. A total of 21 banks were targeted by the gang in **Gloucester, Swindon, Bristol, Bath, Colchester, Tilehurst, Cherry Hinton, Oxford, Croydon, Ipswich** and **Chandler's Ford**. Three other men, Leroy Hall, Leon McKenzie and Brian Henry pleaded guilty to being part of the gang before the trial started. The Flying Squad firearms officers will not be prosecuted over the deaths. See [August 2008 Incidents](#) for additional details.

This is Surrey Today, 2 October 2008

Armed riot police closed a street in **Banstead**, Surrey, following reports of a female brandishing a handgun in her flat. Police discovered what they suspected to be two **BB guns**. A 16-year-old girl is helping them with their inquiries.

This is Derbyshire, 2 October 2008

Shane Barker fired an **imitation firearm**, a copy of an Army Colt revolver, through the window of a house in **Derby** in July 2008 (see [Incidents](#)), terrifying the occupants. He was on licence from prison when he committed the offence. He admitted having an imitation firearm and causing people to fear unlawful violence would be used. His three-and-a-half year sentence will run concurrently with the term he was already serving for arson.

This is Cornwall, 2 October 2008

Scouts at a camp in **Devoran**, Cornwall, were shot at repeatedly with what is thought to have been an **air rifle**. Police were called to the creek-side camp after Scout leaders began to fear for the lives of the 22 girls and boys aged between 10 and 17. Two people were spotted on adjacent mudflats lying in prone position facing the scouts.

Rye & Battle Observer, 2 October 2008

A farmer from **Hurstpierpoint**, Surrey, has died from shotgun injuries. His body was found in a field. Police say they have ruled out any third party involvement.

Rugby Advertiser, 2 October 2008

Customers and shop workers wrestled a robber to the ground during an armed raid in **Bilton**, Rugby. He was armed with a pistol-shaped **BB gun**. A 15-year-old has been charged in connection with the robbery.

Mid Devon Star, 2 October 2008

A man was arrested in **Tavistock**, Devon, after being hit by a police stun gun. Concerns had been raised by staff of a psychiatric unit when the man stormed off in a violent state and was believed to be in possession of a **.22 air rifle**.

Evening Courier, 2 October 2008

David Marr and his girlfriend were arrested by armed police after brandishing an **airgun** on a canal towpath in **Copley**, West Yorkshire. The gun was unloaded but the couple had a bag of ball bearing ammunition in their possession. Marr pleaded guilty to possessing an unloaded air weapon and was given a 12-month conditional discharge. Charges against his girlfriend were withdrawn. The gun and ball-bearings were destroyed.

Derbyshire Times, 2 October 2008

Four 12 bore shotguns were stolen from a gun cabinet during a burglary on a home in **Holmewood**, Derbyshire. Cartridges were also taken. The owners were unable to say whether any other items were stolen. The raid took place on the same night thieves tried to steal similar weapons from a house on a neighbouring street where they failed to get into a gun safe.

Bolton News, 2 October 2008

Paul Woodcock raided the office of a window cleaning company, two bookmakers and a post office in **Bolton** in December 2007 and January 2008. He has been found guilty of five counts of robbery and four firearms offences. The robberies were carried out with Adrian Whittle who pleaded guilty to one robbery charge and possession of a firearm at an earlier hearing. **Imitation guns** were used in the robberies. Both men will be sentenced later.

Bridlington Free Press, 2 October 2008

James Hicks walked into a charity shop in **Bridlington**, East Yorkshire, with an **imitation pistol** in June 2007 and told staff to get customers outside. He then appeared unwell and after being a stool to sit on he got up and left. He later called the police who went to his home and found two handguns, a lock knife and a plastic silencer. He has since pleaded guilty to charges involving the possession of a firearm and a lock knife. He has been treated for a personality disorder which had left him with psychopathic tendencies. He has been returned to a secure hospital and sentencing later.

Birmingham Mail, 2 October 2008

A man suffered a broken leg when he was shot in a betting shop in **Ladywood**, Birmingham. It is believed a lone gunman walked in and fired two shots at him.

BBC, 2 October 2008

Three men have been found guilty of shooting dead another man who was ambushed as he walked home from a pub in **Hartcliffe**, Bristol, in December 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). Michael Hodge, Mark Starr and Nathan Sargent were all convicted of murder. Sargent told the court that he raised the .22 calibre bolt-action rifle towards the victim and claimed that the gun went off during a struggle. A fourth man also faces a murder charge but has been ruled unfit to stand trial.

BBC, 2 October 2008

Wayne Bryan has admitted accidentally shooting a 16-year-old girl in the head at a party in **Gorton**, Manchester, in June 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He admitted five charges including possession of a firearm, possession of an **imitation firearm** and two counts of possession of ammunition. He told the court he was dancing with the gun, which he said he found in a bag at the side of a chair at the victim's house, when it went off. The girl was in a coma for 10 days but has recently been discharged from hospital. Bryan has been jailed for eight years (*BBC*, 24 October 2008).

Runcorn & Widnes World, 1 October 2008

A bus driver was held up at gun point by a gang of hooded men. He had just parked up in **Runcorn**, Cheshire, when he was approached by four to six men, one of whom was carrying a black handgun and another a knife. The gang took his overnight takings.

The Journal, 1 October 2008

A couple were robbed in their home in **Stanley**, County Durham, by two men, one with a gun and one with a knife. The couple were threatened and punched before the men made off with some cash. A 16-year-old youth has been arrested (*The Journal*, 8 October 2008).

SCOTLAND

Press & Journal, 31 October 2008

William Anderson, who held his sister and brother-in-law at gunpoint on their bed and threatened to kill them, has pleaded guilty to assault by seizing his victims by the throats and repeatedly presenting a handgun at them, operating the mechanism on the gun and repeatedly threatening to kill them, all to their alarm and distress. The incident took place in **Alness**, Ross-shire, in June 2008. The gun was never found. Anderson has been jailed for 32 months.

West Lothian Courier, 30 October 2008

Craig Thomson was caught with a loaded **air weapon** in woods in **Livingston**, West Lothian, in April 2008. He pleaded guilty to being in possession of the loaded weapon in a public place. Sentencing was deferred for six months.

Daily Record, 30 October 2008

A man was shot with an **air rifle** in a drive-by shooting in **Partick**, Glasgow. The victim suffered slight injuries to the head.

BBC, 30 October 2008

There are fears that a gunman has been wandering around **Montrose** after shots were fired at a museum. A pellet was found in a sink and there were three pellet holes in the window of the heritage centre. It is reported that a .22 calibre weapon was involved and there is speculation that it might be a converted **air rifle** (*Montrose Review*, 30 October 2008).

Paisley Daily Express, 28 October 2008

Christopher Taggart fired shot from an **air rifle** from a balcony on a block of flats in **Paisley** in September 2008. He was arrested after firearms officers surrounded the block. Taggart admitted culpably and recklessly discharging the air rifle while showing disregard for the safety of members of the public. He was ordered to carry out 100 hours of community service.

Scotsman, 24 October 2008

Two men were being sought after an armed robbery in which a security guard was threatened by the men, one of whom was carrying a handgun, in **Knightswood**, Glasgow. The men made off with a five-figure sum.

BBC, 24 October 2008

A man armed with what appeared to be a handgun stole a three-figure sum of cash from a bookmakers in **Glasgow**. The gun was not discharged and no-one was injured but two members of staff were left badly shaken.

BBC, 22 October 2008

Stuart McAlpine, 19, pointed an **air rifle** at police officers after throwing his mother out of the home in **Penicuik**, Midlothian. He has pleaded guilty to assaulting constables by pointing a loaded rifle and threatening to shoot them. He has been given 200 hours of community service.

BBC, 21 October 2008

A man has been accused of pulling out an **imitation handgun** at a house in **Stirling** before aiming at two schoolgirls and ordering them to dance. He has been cleared by a jury of assaulting the girls. Two charges of threatening to shoot the girls and threatening violence were found to be not proven (*BBC*, 23 October 2008).

BBC, 21 October 2008

Jacqueline Irvine forced her way into two houses in **Troon**, Ayrshire, in June 2007 and threatened two women with a gun. She has admitted assault, repeatedly presenting a handgun or **imitation handgun** at one of the women and threatening to shoot her. Sentencing was deferred.

Scotsman, 18 October 2008

A masked gunman escaped with a five-figure sum after a security van was held up in **Shawlands**, Glasgow.

West Lothian Courier, 16 October 2008

Shaun Morrison, 16, randomly fired an **air rifle** from his attic skylight into his street in **Uphall**, West Lothian, in March 2008. He fired at house windows and cars. Morrison told police the weapon belonged to his friend Alexander Gallagher who has been sentenced to 12 months imprisonment for firing the weapon and hitting a woman on the back on a different occasion. Morrison pled guilty and was given 120 hours of community service.

BBC, 16 October 2008

A male youth has been charged with possession of an **imitation gun** on a street in **Inverness**. Police responded to a report from a concerned member of public

Sunday Mail, 12 October 2008

A gunman has targeted windows at the **Cumbernauld** home of a man whose son was shot dead in a gangland hit in April 2006. The house was shot at the day after a shot was fired at a nearby home by mistake.

Scotland on Sunday, 12 October 2008

A gang of children on BMX bikes cycled past the playground of a school in **Crossmyloof**, Glasgow, and opened fire with a **BB gun**, hitting a pupil near the eye. The incident occurred last month.

BBC, 10 October 2008

Charles McLean attacked his nephew with a stun gun at a house in **Newmains**, North Lanarkshire, in March 2008. He and two other men, Peter Miller and David Hamilton, admitted assaulting the victim to his severe injury, permanent disfigurement and to the danger of his life. All three men were jailed for four years and nine months.

Hamilton Advertiser, 9 October 2008

In an incident that took place in September 2008 a teenage boy fired a **BB gun** at a man who was standing outside a pub in **Bellshill**, North Lanarkshire. A pellet struck the victim on the back of the neck.

Bellshill Speaker, 9 October 2008

A nine-year-old girl has been shot in the eye near her home in **Carfin**, North Lanarkshire. It is understood that an older boy fired a **BB gun** at her as she played with friends in a play park. Police are looking for two boys in connection with the assault.

Evening News (Edinburgh), 7 October 2008

Peter Marshall has been jailed for nine and a half years after being found guilty of staging an armed raid on the home of his sister in **Pilton**, Edinburgh, in March 2008. During the raid he levelled what appeared to be a gun at the face of his 15-year-old niece. Marshall stole a safe which contained £20,000 in cash as well as jewellery. An accomplice has never been traced.

BBC, 7 October 2008

Two men were taken to hospital after a late night shooting outside a bar in the centre of **Glasgow**. The seriousness of their condition is not known. It has since been reported that one of the victims has died.

Paisley Daily Express, 4 October 2008

A man was arrested for firing an **air rifle** from premises in **Paisley**. In other incidents over the same weekend staff at a restaurant were threatened by two males carrying an **air weapon**, a woman was arrested in possession of a **replica self-loading pistol** and a woman needed medical attention after she was shot in the face by an **airgun pellet**. The Assistant Chief Constable of Strathclyde Police has said that following an unusually high number of firearms incidents he was hammering home the message that people who carry and use airguns, ball bearing guns and replicas are putting their own and others' lives at risk.

Evening Times, 2 October 2008

A man was shot in the face and stomach with a shotgun as he sat in a car in the **Calton** area of Glasgow. Three others in the car dived for cover as a hooded man and two accomplices attacked with a sawn-off shotgun. The victim was in a serious but stable condition after emergency surgery. The incident is believed to be linked to a feud over missing drugs. The victim is expected to recover, according to police (*Daily Record*, 4 October 2008).

BBC, 1 October 2008

Two teenagers who appeared in court have denied an allegation of possessing **imitation handguns** and placing members of the public in **Inverness** city centre in a state of fear and alarm. A member of Northern Constabulary's firearms section said that police in the Highlands are regularly dealing with reports of young men carrying and brandishing replica guns. Officers were making "split second decisions" on whether they were real.

BBC, 1 October 2008

Paul Farrell was caught with a pistol, silencer and a live bullet while walking his dog in **Possil Park**, Glasgow, in November 2007. Police had been called after he was asked to leave a flat after producing a gun. He has been jailed for five years.

WALES

South Wales Echo, 29 October 2008

A binman has been shot as he collected rubbish in **Rumney**, Cardiff. He was treated in hospital after a pellet hit him in the shoulder, leaving a hole in his padded jacket. Two men were arrested on suspicion of possessing an **air rifle**.

BBC, 22 October 2008

A gunman burst into offices at an industrial park in **Pontypool**, South Wales. Emergency services called to the incident found one man dead and three more hurt. It is thought that a handgun was carried but not fired and that the offender discarded the weapon, which the police are now searching for. A man was being held on suspicion of murder, attempted murder and false imprisonment.

Glamorgan Gazette, 9 October 2008

A gun was fired at a bedroom window in **Wildmill**, shattering glass as a teenager was doing homework. An **airgun** pellet was found on the floor of the room. Other used pellets were found near the home. The shots were believed to have been fired from a nearby railway line.

BBC, 2 October 2008

A coroner has recorded a verdict of misadventure at an inquest into the death of a 17-year-old in **Maesglas**, Newport, in November 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). The teenager was shot in the heart with an **air rifle**. At the time he was with his cousin and a friend who was holding the gun when the shot was fired. No action has been taken against either of them. The victim's cousin had bought the rifle from a friend two days before the incident, which happened when they went to a shed to modify it to make it more powerful.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

The News (Portsmouth), 30 October 2008

A cat has been blinded in one eye after being shot with an **air rifle** in **Oving**, near Chichester in Sussex. The eye had to be removed to get out the airgun pellet.

MK News, 30 October 2008

A member of the public has offered a reward for information to find the offender who shot a cat in **Beanhill**, Milton Keynes. The pet was shot with an **airgun pellet** at close range.

Haverhill Echo, 30 October 2008

A cat was seriously injured after being shot with an **airgun** in **Haverhill**, Suffolk. Vets cannot remove a pellet from her shoulder because they fear it would cause the cat serious nerve damage.

Runcorn & Widnes World, 23 October 2008

A cat has died three days after being shot with an **air rifle** in **Runcorn**, Cheshire. Vets had tried to save her by removing three pieces of bowel along with a metal pellet.

Express & Echo, 22 October 2008

Police and RSPCA officials are investigating the shooting of a cat in **Exeter**, which has had to be put down after his spine was severed by an **air rifle** pellet. His owners have put up a £200 reward for information leading to the conviction of the perpetrator.

Farmers Weekly, 21 October 2008

A herd of cattle at a farm in **Barwell**, Leicestershire, have been the target of several attacks. One cow has died and others have been left injured in the attacks. After one a cow was found with an **airgun** pellet in the side of its neck. Police have spoken to three boys, aged 11 and 12, in connection with the attacks.

Exmouth Herald, 16 October 2008

A cat was discovered in **Exmouth**, Devon, with an **air rifle** pellet embedded in her neck and another in the back of her head. The injuries were so severe that she had to be put to sleep. Her owner had been trying to find her by putting posters through neighbours' letterboxes.

South Wales Echo, 14 October 2008

A cat has been shot with an **airgun** in **Abercynon**. A pellet had damaged one of her Achilles tendons. The vet's bill is already £1200. The paper reports that another cat has been injured twice in Mountain Ash. On the latest occasion a pellet was found to have lodged in her side.

Great Yarmouth Mercury, 11 October 2008

Two animals, a donkey and a cat, have been shot in recent **airgun** attacks in the Yarmouth area. The donkey was lucky to survive after suffering a hole in her head during a shooting in **Belton**. The pellet remains in her head. The cat was shot near her home in **Burgh Castle**. X-rays established that a pellet had broken her leg.

The Sentinel, 10 October 2008

A cat has had to have its leg amputated after being shot with an **airgun** in **Tunstall**, Staffordshire. An x-ray revealed that a pellet had lodged in her thigh.

BBC, 9 October 2008

Two cats were shot with **airguns** in near fatal attacks which occurred within a month of each other. Both incidents occurred near their home in **Whitburn**, West Lothian, earlier this year. They have required more than £4000 worth of medical treatment. Two pellets were removed from one cat, the second cat was injured by four pellets.

BBC, 8 October 2008

Daniel Britain has been fined £650 for killing two protected birds, an oyster catcher and a gull, with an **airgun** while shooting with friends outside his home in **Bielside**, Aberdeen. The birds were shot during a barbecue held at his home. He admitted the offence.

Grantham Journal, 3 October 2008

Two sheep were found dead from gunshot wounds at **Belton Park** near Grantham, Lincolnshire. The animals appear to have been shot with a high-powered rifle.



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