



OCTOBER 2009 - SUMMARY

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - There were three **fatal shooting** incidents reported in October. Two of them were homicides, both of which occurred in London - the victims were killed in Tottenham and Clapton, and police are investigating whether the deaths are linked by gang rivalry.
- A pensioner was found shot dead in Brighouse - his death was not being treated as suspicious.
- Eleven other victims were **injured** in shooting attacks:
 - Cheshire (1) - a man had to have a finger amputated after a shooting in Runcorn
 - Greater Manchester (1) - a man was shot in both legs, probably with a shotgun, in Swinton
 - Kent (1) - a man was shot in the stomach during a suspected road rage incident in Alkham
 - London (5) - a man was in a critical condition after being shot in Feltham, and four teenagers were victims of other incidents in which one of six teenagers targeted in a drive-by shooting in Mitcham was hit in the leg (this incident probably occurred at the end of September), a 15-year-old boy sustained serious injuries in Clapham (a man has been questioned by police), another was seriously injured in Stockwell and a 16-year-old was shot in Kilburn
 - Merseyside (2) - a teenager was shot in the shoulder in Dovecot (four people have been arrested), and a man was seriously injured in a shooting outside a pub in Kirkby
 - West Midlands (1) - a man was shot in an apparent targeted attack in Longford near Coventry
- A man was shot by **police** marksmen in Holloway (north London) after police were called following reports of gunshots.
- A man was attacked with a **stun gun** and then stabbed in the neck at a property in Tottenham (north London).
- At least 15 other people, including a disproportionate number of youngsters, were injured in shootings with **BB guns** and **airguns**:
 - Cheshire - a man was shot in the eye with an air rifle pellet while he was walking near Knutsford
 - Cumbria - a man was shot with a ball-bearing gun in a street in Carlisle
 - Derbyshire - a 12-year-old boy was shot in the face with a BB gun by a group of youths in Ilkeston
 - Devon - a youth was hit in the wrist when an air rifle sniper shot at him as he was driving in Plymouth
 - Hertfordshire - a 12-year-old boy who arrived at a care centre in Hemel Hempstead had been shot in the head with an air rifle at a friends' house
 - Lancashire - three police officers were hit by air rifle pellets fired by a teenager from his home in Heysham, and an 8-year-old was hit with a pellet from a BB gun in Blackburn (one 14-year-old boy has been fined and another given a Youth Referral Form)
 - Scotland - a woman was allegedly shot in the face with an airgun in Montrose (Angus) (a man was arrested), and a 15-year-old girl has been partially blinded after she and a friend were shot with a BB gun in Dundee (a 13-year-old boy has been charged)

- Somerset - a taxi driver in Weston-super-Mare sustained an injury to his finger when he was hit by an airgun pellet
 - West Midlands - a man was shot in the arm in a one of a number of shooting incidents in Bloxwich, probably involving an air rifle - other people including an 8-year-old girl were apparently targeted but the shots missed them (see also **Airguns and Imitation Guns** below)
 - West Sussex - a man was shot in the back of the head with an airgun whilst walking in Worthing
- A **BB gun** was one of three weapons brandished by a man who attacked a man outside a pub in Crumpsall (Manchester).
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - There were robberies and attempted robberies allegedly involving guns at **Banks, Building Societies and Post Offices** in Redcar (Teesside) (a man was charged with attempted robbery and possession of an imitation firearm), Ouston (County Durham) (a handgun was used), South Croydon (south London) (handgun), Newbury Park (east London), Sketty (Swansea) (handgun), Foleshill (Coventry) and Plymouth (probably involving an airgun), a **Bookmakers** in Armley (West Yorkshire) (handgun), **Cafes and Restaurants** in Swindon (Wiltshire) and Edinburgh (handgun), a **Club** in Kirkby (Merseyside) (shotgun), **Petrol Stations** in Oxford (plastic gun) and Leicester, **Shops** in Wembley (north west London), Huntingdon (Cambridgeshire), Normanton (Derby), Longfield (south London) (toy gun), Selby (North Yorkshire) (one man has been charged), Wood Green (north London) and Worthing (West Sussex).
- In an incident in West Hampstead (north west London) a man attempted to steal a moped and pointed a gun at its rider but the weapon failed to fire when he pulled the trigger - the man was arrested later along with a second suspect - three guns and a quantity of diamonds were recovered.
- There were **Carjackings** in which guns were probably involved in Luton (Bedfordshire) (a man was arrested and two firearms recovered), Reddish (Greater Manchester) and from a petrol station near Thame (Oxfordshire) (four men have been arrested).
- Money was stolen from a **car** in Cradley Heath (Birmingham) by two men with a shotgun.
- A man had a gun held to his head during a robbery at a **house** in Houghton-le-Spring (County Durham) by a gang armed with a sword, stun gun and shotgun.
- A teenager was robbed of his phone and wallet in a **street** in Chippenham (Wiltshire) (two people have been arrested and charged with robbery and possession of an imitation firearm). A man is to be charged with possession of a shotgun with intent to cause fear of violence as well as other charges including robbing one woman of a handbag in St Albans (Hertfordshire).
- A man who attempted to rob a woman in Maryhill (Glasgow) threatened her with a stun gun but fled empty-handed.
- A number of arrests were made following earlier robberies:
 - A suspect was charged with conspiracy to commit armed robbery and possession of an imitation firearm following recent armed robberies in Brent and Harrow (north west London).
 - Two men were arrested in Bromley (south London) and charged with conspiracy to commit robbery and the unlawful possession of a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence.
 - A man was charged with attempted robbery and possession of a firearm at a bookmakers in Newton-le-Willows (Merseyside) in September.

- Police have named a man in connection with a robbery at a games store in Jarrow (Tyneside) earlier this year in which staff were threatened with a shotgun.
- A woman described a gunpoint robbery at her home in Colwyn Bay (Clwyd) and CCTV images were released from a robbery at a store in Trafford (Greater Manchester) involving two men with a handgun - both robberies took place in August.
- **Other Incidents** - Shots were fired during a number of other incidents:
 - A policeman had a gun held to his head after he chased and cornered a youth who had shot at him in Hackney (east London)
 - A weapon, believed to be a shotgun, was fired at a bus in Bradford damaging windows
 - Two youths in Mitcham (south London) fired shots from motor scooters smashing car windows
 - A car was shot at in Toxteth (Liverpool) and was later found abandoned
 - Two men were arrested, one on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, after a pistol was used to fire a blank in South Tyneside
 - A motorcyclist fired a shotgun at a house in Salford (Greater Manchester)
 - Shots were fired at a house in Brent (north west London)
 - Two men and a woman were arrested in Bedford following reports of a shooting
 - A man was arrested after unconfirmed reports of gunfire in Sutton Coldfield (West Midlands)
 - A firearm is thought to have been discharged during a burglary in Frizinghall (Bradford)
 - A group of men who began firing shotguns in a field in Epping (Essex) gave concern to local residents
 - Shots were heard in the vicinity of a hospital in Bordesley Green (Birmingham)
- A gang with a gun who made threats to kill someone in Cambridge were arrested after a police chase to Leicestershire.
- A man has been transferred into the care of mental health professionals after he was seen wielding a handgun in Trottiscliffe (Kent).
- A man has been reported to the procurator fiscal after a firearms incident on farmland in Aberdeenshire. A man was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence at a stately home near Cannock (Staffordshire).
- Armed police swooped on a street in York after a youth was reported to have been seen pointing a shotgun at a member of the public - a youth was arrested but not charged.
- A man has denied possessing a pistol without a certificate after the gun, ammunition and a silencer were discovered in an abandoned car in Far Cotton (Northampton). A teenager was charged with possession of a firearm and ammunition after a loaded handgun was found in a car in Gorton (Greater Manchester).
- A man from Minchinhampton (Gloucestershire) has appeared in court and pleaded not guilty to charges relating to the possession of a number of firearms. A man has been charged with illegal possession of a sawn-off shotgun found alongside licensed firearms on a boat moored in Brixham (Devon). A man has pleaded not guilty to possessing an altered firearm after he was alleged to have had a sawn-off shotgun in Chiseldon (Wiltshire).

- A man from Sowerby Bridge (West Yorkshire) has been charged after a stun gun was found at his house.
- A gang of young men armed with paintball guns have been taking pot-shots at prostitutes in Leicester.
- A 15-year-old has been arrested in Wandsworth (south London) for storing ammunition at home.
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns** - Besides those incidents which resulted in injury (see above) there were many other incidents involving airguns and imitation weapons. They were probably used in many of the **armed robberies**, and this was apparently the case in robberies in Redcar (Teesside), Brent and Harrow (north west London), Chippenham (Wiltshire), Longfield (south London), Plymouth and Oxford. Three men appeared in court charged with robbery after carjackings in the Black Country - one of the men denied three charges of possessing an imitation firearm.
- Three teenage boys have been charged with possessing an imitation firearm in connection with an incident in which a boy was thrown into a skip in Birmingham.
- Two men were arrested in Bilsborrow (Lancashire) after a man reported he was shot at with an air rifle. There were reports that an airgun had been fired at two men in separate incidents in Ivybridge (Devon) (an air weapon has been handed to police).
- A man was arrested after firing an air rifle at a fence in a car park in Gloucester.
- Five teenagers were arrested and an air rifle recovered after fears that a gunman was on the loose in Beeston (West Yorkshire).
- A man was chased by armed police officers at Tottenham Court Road station (central London) after being seen with what is believed was a gas-powered pellet gun.
- The following acts of vandalism involved airguns and BB guns:
 - A pensioner in Leith fears a gang who have left him a prisoner in his home may have started firing airguns at his home, and a woman in Northampton has been left terrified after having the window of her living room shot at. A ball bearing gun has been fired through the window of a family home in Burbage (Leicestershire).
 - A car was damaged in one of several shooting incidents in Bloxwich (West Midlands) believed to have involved an air rifle and in which at least one person was hit (see **Gun Deaths and Injuries** above). Parked cars were damaged by shots fired from an airgun in Leyland (Lancashire) (a man has been arrested). Four buses were damaged when an air rifle was fired at them in Basildon (Essex). Houses and cars were shot at with an air rifle in Ormsgill (Cumbria) (two teenagers were detained). Cars and businesses were damaged in Longridge (Lancashire) by youths with BB guns and catapults. A burger van window was shattered by a shot from an airgun or BB gun in Leigh Sinton (Worcestershire).
- A man seen with a gun in a car park in Sittingbourne (Kent) was arrested for possession of an imitation firearm.
- A woman was released without charge after police raided a house in York and found a suspected firearm, a ball-bearing gun - a man remained in custody.
- The Metropolitan Police are investigating a video apparently featuring a police officer allowing himself to be shot with an air pistol.

- **Other Gun Recoveries and Thefts** - Guns were found during searches in which drugs were also recovered in Dewsbury (West Yorkshire) (a stun gun), Lincoln (a high-powered airgun), South Elmsall (West Yorkshire (an air rifle), Devizes (an air rifle and an imitation handgun), Speke (Liverpool) (a handgun was found), Lowestoft (Suffolk) (a stun gun; a paintball gun), Bensham (Tyneside) (two blank-firing handguns), Surrey (stun gun).
 - A number of weapons were found during raids in London which targeted gang violence - two pistols were discovered in Tower Hamlets, and a shotgun, pistol and ammunition in Islington. In another find in Islington a firearm, stun gun and other weapons were recovered and a man wanted for armed robbery in Liverpool was arrested.
 - Another man was arrested on suspicion of possession of a section 1 firearm after a pistol was found under a patio in Hunslet (West Yorkshire).
 - Seven firearms and ammunition have been recovered from gardens in Old Swan and Kirkby (Merseyside) (one man has been charged and three other people were arrested). Two men and a woman were arrested after a shotgun was recovered from a house in Washington (County Durham).
 - An imitation gun was recovered by police investigating sex trafficking during an operation in Manor Park (east London).
 - Two ball-bearing guns found in a churchyard in Nafferton (West Yorkshire) were destroyed by police.
 - Air weapons and a BB gun were found during searches in the Swansea area and elsewhere in South Wales for a man who had escaped after being sentenced for a firearm offence.
 - A rifle was stolen from a house in Bedworth (Warwickshire) - armed police had surrounded the property after reports of a burglar with a gun.

 - **Incidents Involving Animals** - More animals and birds suffered as a result of shooting incidents reported during October, some of which were fatal. Cats and dogs were the victims of airgun and pellet gun attacks in Angus, Bedfordshire, Bradford, Derby, East London, Greater Manchester, Leicestershire, Morayshire, Norfolk, Northampton, Northamptonshire, North Yorkshire, Oxfordshire and Worcestershire. A cat was shot with a shotgun in East Lothian.
 - Two stags were shot and killed with a high-powered rifle in Somerset.
 - Airguns were probably responsible for the death of a prize pigeon in Sandhurst (Berkshire) and a protected barn owl in Pershore (Worcestershire).
 - A swan rescued because of other injuries from a river in Cambridgeshire was found to have an airgun pellet in its chest.
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- **Convictions** - Three trials that followed **fatal shootings** were concluded in October:
 - A 16-year-old was found guilty of murder after he set off a train of events which led to the death of a man in Shepherd's Bush (west London) - another man who was cleared of murder was jailed for 10 years for possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life
 - One man, aged 19, pleaded guilty and another was found guilty of the murder of a 15-year-old who was shot dead in a park in Derby
 - A man was acquitted of manslaughter and two women of other charges relating to the fatal shooting of a woman in High Wycombe (Buckinghamshire) in 2004

- One man has been jailed for 8 years for firing a gun during fights between two gangs in Sutton (south London) - police recovered a sawn-off shotgun.
- A man who fired an illegal gas gun in King's Lynn (Norfolk) has been jailed for a month.
- A number of men were convicted of offences relating to **armed robberies and burglaries** involving guns. The majority of the cases involved **imitation firearms** (see below). In the other cases:
 - A man pleaded guilty and his brother was found guilty of an armed robbery at a post office in Briton Ferry (West Glamorgan) in which they were armed with a pistol and a sword
 - A number of men have been sentenced during the last two months for a robbery outside a bank in Bradford when what looked like a handgun was pointed at a security guard - the sentences ranged from 3½ years to 14 years (some of the men had been involved in other raids)
 - Another person has been jailed for participating in the £53 million robbery at a security depot in Tonbridge (Kent) in 2006 - he admitted conspiracy to kidnap and possessing a firearm and received an 18 year sentence
 - Two men arrested in Southampton have been sentenced to a minimum of 10 years in jail for aggravated burglary and possessing a stun gun and a shotgun
- There were a number of other convictions for **possession** of firearms:
 - Three men have admitted conspiracy to possess firearms and explosives and drug offences during a trial in which a fourth man has denied the same charges - various firearms are alleged to have been found at the latter's flat in Bristol.
 - A man who admitted possession of a shotgun and an explosive detonator, found during searches at properties in Dalton and Crosland Moor (West Yorkshire), has been jailed for 3 years and 9 months.
 - A man from Stretford (Greater Manchester) was given a 5 year jail sentence after admitting possessing a self-loading pistol and ammunition.
 - Another man, from Dyfatty (Swansea), who was also given a 5 year sentence for possessing a shotgun and breaching the terms of his licence absconded minutes later.
 - Four men cleared of involvement in a shooting incident in Cambridge were, however, jailed for 15, 10, 3½ and 3½ years after being found guilty of conspiracy to possess a firearm - the two men who received the longer sentences were also guilty of drug offences.
 - Another four men were jailed for between 5 and 10 years for supplying illegal drugs - during the operation which led to their conviction police found machine guns, shotguns, rifles, handguns and ammunition during raids on properties in Glasgow, Paisley and Clydebank.
 - Three men have been found guilty of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life after a pistol was found in a car in Burnage (Greater Manchester).
 - A girl who was 16 at the time of the offence has pleaded guilty to possessing a pistol in her handbag in Brunswick (Manchester) - she was keeping the weapon for her 19-year-old boyfriend who has also pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm.

- A man who had a pistol and cartridges in his car in Southend (Essex) has been jailed for 5 years after admitting a number of offences including possession of a firearm.
- A drug dealer from Baddeley Green (Stoke-on-Trent) has been given a 5 year sentence after a rifle and ammunition were found in his van.
- A man who was caught with a handgun in Parkhead (Glasgow) has been jailed for 5 years and 2 months after admitting three firearms charges.
- Another man caught with a handgun in Hermiston Gate (Edinburgh) has been given a life sentence.
- A 17-year-old was jailed for 3 years for possession of a shotgun found hidden in his home in Southampton.
- A number of men have been sentenced for offences involving **stun guns** in:
 - Aberdeen - a 16-year-old has been sent to a young offenders' institution for 2½ years after a stun gun attack which left the victim disfigured
 - Chatteris (Cambridgeshire) - a man admitted possessing a stun gun, a knife and class C drugs at his home and was ordered to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work
 - Derby - a man was given a suspended 17-week prison sentence
 - Inverness - a man was also found with drugs and has been ordered to carry out 300 hours of community service
 - Musselburgh (Midlothian) - the offender was sentenced to 200 hours' community service after being caught with a stun gun
 - Oxford - a 19-year-old has been banned from going out at weekends after he brandished a stun gun he found on the ground at two men
 - Pontyclun (Mid Glamorgan) - a man found with a stun gun when police were called to a pub has received a suspended 26-week prison sentence
 - Portmead (Swansea) - a man admitted possession of a prohibited weapon
 - Winchester (Hampshire) - the offender broke into a flat and attacked the occupant, hitting him with a stun gun and has been jailed for 3½ years
 - Wincham (Cheshire) - the offender was given a 12-month sentence, suspended for a year, after also admitting cultivation and possession of cannabis
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns (Court Cases)** - A teenager who wounded his ex-girlfriend with an air rifle, shooting her in the leg during an attack at his home in New Haw (Surrey), has been sent to a young offenders' institution for 2 years.
- A man who admitted firing a BB gun at a 15-year-old girl in Milnathort (Kinross-shire), injuring her leg, has been ordered to pay compensation and to attend a 3-month rehabilitation course.
- A man from Linlithgow (West Lothian) who threatened his ex-wife's husband with an imitation gun has pleaded guilty to breach of the peace and to breaching the Firearms Act and been jailed for nearly 3 years.
- A man has admitted causing a 13-year-old to believe that an imitation firearm would be used against him in Aberdeen.
- There were a number of convictions for **robberies and attempted robberies** in which the offender was armed with an imitation firearm. The incidents occurred:

- at shops and post offices in the West Midlands - four men, including two teenagers, were given custodial sentences of between 4½ years and 6 years and 3 months
 - during a mugging in Redditch (Worcestershire) when cash, drugs and a mobile phone were taken - a man was jailed for 2½ years
 - during a robbery at a house - the offender from Welham Green (Hertfordshire) had his sentence reduced to 5 years on appeal
 - during a street robbery in Haverhill (Suffolk) - the victim was aged 13, the gunman was an older teenager and was sent to a young offenders' institution for 2½ years, his accomplice was jailed for 3 years and 4 months
 - during a string of robberies across Yorkshire including one on a taxi driver in Scarborough - the offender has had his sentence reduced to 8½ years but must remain on an "extended licence" for 5 years on release
 - at a shop in South Shields - the robber has been jailed indefinitely and will serve a minimum of 5 years
 - at a pharmacy in Ayr - the robber used his son's toy gun and has been jailed for 6 years
 - at a shop in Portswood (Southampton) - two men were jailed for 3 and 4 years after pleading guilty to charges of conspiracy to rob and possession of an imitation firearm with intent
 - on a bus in Erdington (Birmingham) where three of four robberies and attempted robberies on teenagers were perpetrated by a man with an imitation firearm who was been jailed for 5½ years - the other robbery took place in Sutton Coldfield
 - at bookmakers in north west London - two men were caught after an attempted robbery in Kingsbury and have been given 6 and 3 year sentences
 - carjackings in the Black Country - one person has admitted his involvement in one of three robberies, two other men are still on trial
 - during a hold-up near Silk Mills (Somerset) - a woman has been given a 24-month supervision order and required to undergo drug rehabilitation
- A man who pointed an air rifle at door staff at a pub in Ealing (west London) was given a suspended 8-month jail sentence and was ordered to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work.
 - A man who committed a burglary was found to have a spring-loaded air weapon in his caravan in Mile Cross (Norfolk) - he was jailed for two years and nine months.
 - A man who had an air rifle at his home in Sunderland whilst prohibited was given a suspended 36 week prison sentence with supervision and programme requirements.
 - A man from Neath who admitted drug offences pleaded guilty to unrelated firearms offences involving the unlawful possession of three airguns. A man caught with an airgun, cannabis and drug paraphernalia in a car in Sible Hedingham (Essex) has been given a suspended 16-week prison sentence for each of two offences.
 - A man caught with an air pistol in his van in Turnford (Hertfordshire) has been given a 12-month community order. A man from Lymm (Cheshire) who had an air pistol in his pocket as he stood outside another man's home with a chainsaw running was given 80 hours community service. Another man who pleaded guilty to having a loaded air weapon in a public place in Sprowston (Norfolk) was given a 12 months community order.

- A man who showed off an air pistol at a party in Colchester (Essex) pleaded guilty to possession of an imitation firearm in a public place and was given a suspended 28-week prison sentence and a supervision order.
- A woman who disposed of an air rifle for her boyfriend after he brandished it in the street in Trowbridge (Wiltshire) was given a two year conditional discharge after pleading guilty to perverting the course of justice - firearms charges against her boyfriend were dropped.
- A man who walked into a police station in Southend (Essex) with a toy gun has been ordered to seek mental health treatment after pleading guilty to possession of an imitation weapon with intent. Another man who took a toy gun into a hospital in Whitehaven (Cumbria) admitted threatening behaviour and was conditionally discharged for 6 months.
- A 14-year-old was cautioned after being caught with a replica gun in Ordsall (Greater Manchester). Another 14-year-old caught waving a BB gun in a street in Preston (Lancashire) has pleaded guilty.
- A man has admitted possession of a BB gun in a public place and possession of an air rifle in Brynmawr (Gwent).

GUN INCIDENTS - OCTOBER 2009

ENGLAND

This is Leicestershire, 31 October 2009

A man from **Hartshome**, Leicestershire, is on trial accused of 26 offences of cruelty to his two sons and two daughters and two counts of actual bodily harm against his wife. The alleged incidents which occurred between 1987 and 2000 include shooting at his children with a **BB gun**.

BBC, 31 October 2009

A man was seriously injured in a shooting outside a pub in **Kirkby**, Merseyside. He was discovered with bullet wounds to his chest and stomach. He was in a critical condition after undergoing emergency surgery. A woman and three men are being held by the police.

This is Leicestershire, 30 October 2009

A man brandished a handgun at staff at a petrol station in **Leicester**. He demanded money from the till but ran away empty-handed when staff triggered a security alarm. Police say they do not know if the weapon was real or an **imitation**.

This is Kent, 30 October 2009

A man was arrested after he was seen wielding a handgun in **Trottscliffe**, Kent. He has since been transferred into the care of mental health professionals.

Swindon Advertiser, 30 October 2009

A man held a gun to the head of a fast food restaurant manager in **Swindon**, Wiltshire. The man had broken in through the rear staff access door and demanded all the money from the till.

The Argus, 30 October 2009

A newsagent in **Worthing**, West Sussex, was robbed by two men who threatened him with what was believed to be a gun. The men escaped with cash and cigarettes.

This is Somerset, 29 October 2009

A man has been given a bravery award by Avon and Somerset Police for tackling an armed robber at a store in **Frome**, Somerset, in July 2008. Last year the offender was convicted of robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence. He was given a 12-month suspended sentence and a two-year supervision order. The offender, who was 18 at the time, had turned the gun on a man who then grabbed hold of the hand holding the weapon. The gun went off smashing the front window of the store.

107 the bee, 29 October 2009

An 8-year-old has been hit by a pellet from a **BB gun** in **Blackburn**, Lancashire. Two 14-year-old boys have been traced in connection with the incident and one had been given a £40 fine and the other a Youth Referral Form. The weapon was seized.

This is the West Country, 28 October 2009

Jennifer Lander used a knife and an **airgun** to hold-up a female security guard at a railway freight yard near **Silk Mills**, Somerset, from where she had been sacked. She demanded the guard's phone and wallet and then turned on 34 train fuel caps causing a spillage of diesel. She pleaded guilty to possession of an imitation firearm, possession of a bladed article and causing criminal damage and was given a 24-month supervision order and required to undergo a 22-month drug rehabilitation.

Express & Star, 28 October 2009

A man was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after he had raised the suspicions of a member of staff at a stately home near **Cannock**, Staffordshire.

Echo, 28 October 2009

An **air rifle** was fired at four buses within the space of two hours in **Basildon**, Essex. The attacks caused £700 worth of damage in the form of broken windows.

Ealing Gazette, 28 October 2009

During an operation coordinated with one in west London, police found drugs, cash and a **stun gun** at an address in Surrey. Two people from **Chessington**, Surrey, were arrested.

Birmingham Mail, 28 October 2009

Local residents were shocked to hear gunshots near a hospital in **Bordesley Green**, Birmingham. Police sealed off four streets during an investigation. There were no reports of anyone being injured.

BBC, 28 October 2009

Three teenage boys have been charged with firearms offences and robbery in connection with an incident in which a boy was thrown into a skip in **Birmingham**. The robbery came to light from footage filmed on a phone. A 13-year-old and a 14-year-old face charges of possessing an **imitation firearm** (*Metro*, 29 October 2009).

This is South Devon, 27 October 2009

A man has appeared in court charged with illegal possession of a **sawn-off shotgun**. He was accused of possessing without the authority of the Secretary of State a pump action, smooth bore gun with a barrel length shorter than 24 inches. The gun was found during a raid on a boat anchored at **Brixham**, Devon. The gun was found alongside other weapons, which were licensed.

Sunday Sun, 27 October 2009

Police seized two **blank-firing handguns**, blank-firing ammunition, cash and drugs during a search of a house in **Bensham**, Tyneside. A man was arrested.

The Press, 27 October 2009

A man and a woman were arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm after police raided a house in **York**. The woman was later released without charge after it was found that the suspected firearm was a **ball-bearing gun** but the man remained in custody and will answer two other charges.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 27 October 2009

Matthew Campbell has admitted possession of an explosive detonator and a **sawn-off shotgun** which police found at an address in **Crosland Moor**, West Yorkshire, in March 2009 (see [April 2009 Incidents](#)). Another **shotgun**, cartridges and a silencer were found in his 2-year-old daughter's bedroom at another property in **Dalton**. He claimed he obtained the gun to protect his family after two men had shot at him outside his home. He has been jailed for three years and nine months.

BBC, 27 October 2009

A man was shot in the stomach during a suspected road rage incident between two motorists in **Alkham**, Kent. The victim was in a stable condition in hospital.

BBC, 27 October 2009

Michael-Paul Hamblett-Sewell has been found guilty of the murder of a 15-year-old boy who was shot dead in a park in **Derby** in November 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). The gunman, Callum Campbell, 19, had admitted murder. He shot the victim with a **sawn-off shotgun**. Both will be sentenced at a later date.

BBC, 27 October 2009

A man was shot in the legs on his doorstep in **Swinton**, Greater Manchester. Police believe a **shotgun** was used. The victim has pellets lodged in both legs.

BBC, 27 October 2009

A man accused of accidentally shooting a woman in the head at a music event in **High Wycombe**, Buckinghamshire, in September 2004 (see [Incidents](#)) has been acquitted of manslaughter. Two women were acquitted of perverting the course of justice and one of them was found not guilty of possession of a firearm.

BBC, 27 October 2009

Four robbers armed with knives and a **sawn-off shotgun** threatened staff at a club in **Kirkby**, Merseyside. They stole a customer's handbag which was later recovered nearby.

Telegraph & Argus, 26 October 2009

A firearm is thought to have been discharged during a burglary in **Frizinghall**, Bradford. No-one was injured.

Southern Daily Echo, 26 October 2009

A 17-year-old has been given a three year jail term for possession of a **12-bore shotgun** which he had hidden in a black plastic carrier bag at his home in **Southampton**. The weapon was found when police raided the property. Luke Harrop admitted possession of a prohibited firearm and ammunition and not having a firearms certificate. He was being asked to hold on the gun by his cannabis dealer.

Northwich Guardian, 26 October 2009

Police found cannabis plants and a **stun gun** when they raided the house of James Wilkinson in **Wincham**, Cheshire. He admitted charges of cultivation and possession of cannabis and possession of an offensive weapon. He was given a 12-month sentence, suspended for a year.

Lancashire Evening Post, 26 October 2009

A teenage boy caught waving a **BB gun** on a street close to his home in **Preston**, Lancashire, in December 2008 was charged with possession of an imitation firearm. He pleaded guilty. His lawyers have criticised the decision to take the case to court saying that they were "disappointed with the CPS who found it necessary to prosecute a 14-year-old playing in the street with a toy gun". However his actions had sufficiently worried a member of the public to have called 999.

Lancashire Evening Post, 26 October 2009

Thousands of pounds worth of damage has been caused by youths in two cars who used **ball-bearing guns** and catapults to fire pellets as they travelled through **Longridge**, Lancashire. Four businesses suffered damage and the windows of two cars were smashed.

Kingsbridge Today, 26 October 2009

There have been claims that an **air weapon** has been fired from a travellers' site in **Ivybridge**, Devon. Police say one incident when a fisherman was shot at was reported to them and that one of the traveller families had handed an air weapon to them.

Haringey Independent, 26 October 2009

A man attempted to rob a supermarket in **Wood Green**, north London. He appeared to be carrying a gun. A member of staff refused to hand over the day's takings and was punched before the man fled.

The Press, 24 October 2009

Three men have been arrested after an armed robbery at a store in **Selby**, North Yorkshire. One man held what is believed to be a handgun at a woman before the gang fled with a four-figure sum. One man has been charged with robbery and possession of a firearm (*BBC*, 26 October 2009).

Oxford Times, 24 October 2009

Two men threatened a woman with a gun at a service area near **Thame**, Oxfordshire, where she and her partner had stopped. The woman was alone in the car at the time and the men demanded she get out of the vehicle. They got into the car and drove off followed by two others in another car. Police are unsure whether the weapon was real or an **imitation**. Four men have been arrested (*BBC*, 25 October 2009).

Manchester Evening News, 24 October 2009

A man on crutches was attacked by a man armed with an axe, lump hammer and **BB gun** as he left a pub in **Crumpsall**, Manchester. The attack is being linked to another attack on a woman in Manchester city centre which happened 30 minutes earlier.

Romford Recorder, 23 October 2009

Three men who took part in a fight outside a pub in **Romford**, east London, in June 2007 which left a man with gunshot wounds have failed to have their jail term reduced. Scott Collins, Darren Thompson and Anthony Barrett had been convicted of causing grievous bodily harm with intent and were jailed for 14, 14, and 10 years respectively. The victim was shot in the groin and it was stated at the original trial that he survived because the gun, which was never found, was a converted **blank-firing weapon**.

Oxford Mail, 23 October 2009

Joseph Byrne, 19, has been banned from going out at weekends after he drunkenly brandished a **Taser stun gun** at two men in **Oxford** in August 2009. He had found the device on the ground earlier in the evening.

Manchester Evening News, 23 October 2009

Four men have denied possessing a firearm and ammunition with intent to endanger life. Armed police swooped on a car in **Burnage**, Manchester, in March 2009 and found a 9mm semi-automatic pistol with a loaded magazine, silencer and laser sight. Luke Lawrence, Kane Mousah and Joel Johnson were all found guilty of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life. The fourth man was found not guilty (*Bolton News*, 31 October 2009).

Get Surrey, 23 October 2009

Stephen Parry, 19, whipped his ex-girlfriend with a dog chain, sprayed bleach into her mouth and shot her in the leg with an **air rifle** at his home in **New Haw**, Surrey, in September 2008. He had enlisted the help of his brother Andrew Parry and Nell Underwood who held the victim during the attack. Stephen Parry was sent to a young offenders' institution for two years for assault and a concurrent 18 months for unlawful wounding. The other offenders were each sentenced to 18 months in prison.

Cumberland News, 23 October 2009

William Musson went into the emergency department of a hospital in **Whitehaven**, Cumbria, and told the doctor he had a gun. It turned out to be a **toy gun** and he wanted to be sectioned as he had nowhere to live and no money. He admitted a public order offence of threatening behaviour and was conditionally discharged for six months.

4RFV, 23 October 2009

A 14-year-old boy has been cautioned after being caught with a **replica gun** in **Ordsall**, Greater Manchester. A member of public had called the police.

Southern Daily Echo, 22 October 2009

Tony Covele broke into a flat in **Winchester**, Hampshire, and attacked the occupant with spray and beat him around the head with a **stun gun** has been jailed for three-and-a-half years. Two other men were acquitted.

Leicester Mercury, 22 October 2009

A gang of young men armed with **paintball guns** has been taking pot-shots at prostitutes in **Leicester**. The men are cruising in a car and have struck several times in recent weeks.

Kilburn Times, 22 October 2009

Two shots were fired at a house by a group of five or six men on an estate in **Neasden**, north west London. Nobody was hurt.

Kilburn Times, 22 October 2009

A 16-year-old is recovering in hospital after he was shot in **Kilburn**, north west London. He underwent vital surgery and is said to be in a stable condition.

Harrow Times, 22 October 2009

Ashton Cato-Bell, 19, threatened staff at a bookmakers in **Kingsbury** with an **imitation gun** in June 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) but was caught by armed police who had been following him after a string of armed robberies at bookmakers elsewhere in north west London. Cato-Bell was jailed for six years after pleading guilty to nine counts of robbery and possession of a firearm with intent. His accomplice Tyrone Mundle pleaded guilty to one court of robbery and one of possession of a firearm with intent and was given a three year sentence.

Ealing Gazette, 22 October 2009

Edmujndas Kucevicius pointed a gun at three door staff at a pub in **Ealing**, west London, in May 2009. He had been drinking when he returned with an **air rifle** after being refused entry. He was given an eight-month jail sentence, suspended for two years, and ordered to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work.

BBC, 22 October 2009

A man from **Bristol** has denied charges of conspiracy to supply cocaine and conspiracy to possess firearms and explosives. During a raid at a flat he owned in June 2008 five handguns, four rifles, stun grenades, a shotgun and ammunition were found. Three other men have admitted the same drug and firearm offences and a fourth has admitted supplying cocaine. Craig Rodel had told Grant Richmond and Kevin Downes to "fire a couple of rounds" into a property in Hartcliffe, Bristol.

Surrey Comet, 21 October 2009

Adrian McCrae has admitted aggravated burglary and possessing a **stun gun** and was also convicted of possessing a **shotgun** with intent to commit an indictable offence and David Noel has been found guilty of aggravated burglary and possessing a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence. They were arrested in Southampton in December 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) by police officers carrying out a stop-check. They had attacked a man in Southampton two weeks earlier. They were both sentenced to a minimum of ten years in jail.

The Press, 21 October 2009

Armed police swooped on a street in **York** after a member of the public reported a youth in a car had pointed a **shotgun** at him. A youth was arrested at the scene but later released without charge. No weapon was found.

North-West Evening Mail, 21 October 2009

Police were called to a street in **Ormsgill**, Barrow in Cumbria, after a report that houses and cars were being shot at with an **air rifle**. Two teenagers were detained but no weapons were recovered.

News & Star, 21 October 2009

A man was shot with a **ball-bearing gun** in a street in **Carlisle**. He was uninjured. Two men have been arrested.

Nafferton Today, 21 October 2009

Two **ball-bearing guns** were found hidden in a churchyard in **Nafferton**, West Yorkshire. The guns were old and rusty and have now been destroyed by police.

Knutsford Guardian, 21 October 2009

A man was shot in the eye with an **air rifle** pellet as he was walking near **Knutsford**, Cheshire. He felt a sharp pain and then saw three youths, aged between 14 and 16, running away.

Cambridge News, 21 October 2009

A gang wielding a gun made threats to kill someone in **Cambridge** before leaving the scene in a car. They were chased by police and three men were eventually arrested in Leicestershire.

Bromley Times, 21 October 2009

Three men armed with a knife and a **toy gun** stole money from an off licence in **Longfield**, south London, after threatening a cashier.

St Helens Star, 20 October 2009

A man has been remanded in custody charged with attempted robbery and possession of a firearm. The charged follow an attempted robbery at a bookmakers in **Newton-le-Willows**, Merseyside, in September 2009.

Midhurst and Petworth Observer, 20 October 2009

A man was shot in the back of the head with an **airgun** as he walked along a road in **Worthing**, West Sussex. He escaped relatively unscathed but was left with a large, red mark on his neck.

Manchester Evening News, 20 October 2009

Two men climbed into a car in **Reddish**, Greater Manchester, and pointed a gun at the driver. They then hijacked the vehicle.

Lowestoft Journal, 20 October 2009

Police seized cash, drugs, counterfeit clothing and a **stun gun** during raids on four properties in **Lowestoft**, Suffolk. A total of seven arrests were made. In another operation police arrested seven teenage boys and seized cannabis, drugs paraphernalia and a **paintball gun** (*Lowestoft Journal*, 21 October 2009).

Liverpool Echo, 20 October 2009

A man on a mountain bike shot at a car in **Toxteth**, Liverpool. The car was later found abandoned and had been damaged by bullet holes.

The Journal, 20 October 2009

A man had a gun held to his head in front of his children as raiders burst into his home near **Houghton-le-Spring**, County Durham, and threatened to "blow his brains out" if he didn't hand over cash. The raiders were armed with a sword, a **stun gun** and a **shotgun**. The victim handed them money.

Coventry Telegraph, 20 October 2009

Armed police surrounded a house in Bedworth, Warwickshire, after it was reported that a burglar was inside with a gun. The offender escaped and it was found that a rifle had been stolen from the property.

BBC, 20 October 2009

Two men, one carrying a hammer and the other a long-barrelled gun, possibly an **air rifle**, demanded money from staff at a post office in **Plymouth**. They fled with only £20. Two men have been arrested and bailed.

This is South Devon, 19 October 2009

A massive police search was triggered when a burglar alarm was set off at a remote farm in **Blackawton**, Devon, and police found the property unoccupied and unlocked and inside what appeared to be a gun missing from a cabinet. It was later discovered that no break-in had occurred but officers will be speaking to the licence holder to establish exactly what happened.

Shields Gazette, 19 October 2009

Detectives have released the name of a man to whom they wish to speak after an armed raid on a games store in **Jarrow**, Tyneside, in March 2009. A man escaped with cash after threatening staff with a **shotgun**.

Manchester Evening News, 19 October 2009

A 19-year-old has been charged with possession of a firearm and possession of ammunition after a loaded handgun was found when police stopped a car in **Gorton**, Greater Manchester.

Evening Standard, 19 October 2009

Of 985 guns seized by the police in **London** this year 217 were "live-firing" weapons (136 handguns, 72 shotguns, 9 sub-machine guns) and the majority are believed to be **BB guns, replicas** or other "non-live firing" guns.

Evening Courier, 19 October 2009

A man has been charged with possessing a prohibited weapon after police found a **stun gun** during a raid on a house in **Sowerby Bridge**, West Yorkshire.

Birmingham Mail, 19 October 2009

A man was arrested after police sealed off a road in **Sutton Coldfield**, West Midlands, after unconfirmed reports of gunfire. Police officers have been searching the scene.

Haringey Independent, 17 October 2009

Two men who forced their way into a property in **Tottenham**, north London, used a **stun gun** on a man and then stabbed him in the neck. The victim was holding a toddler at the time of the attack.

Birmingham Mail, 17 October 2009

Ture Oyaide preyed on teenagers during a spate of robberies which provided funds for his heroin addiction. He struck four times in the West Midlands in April 2009 (see [May 2009 Incidents](#)), once in **Sutton Coldfield** and three times on a bus which runs through **Erdington**. He pleaded guilty to four charges of robbery, one of attempted robbery and five of the possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear or violence. He has been jailed for five-and-a-half years.

BBC, 17 October 2009

A teenager was seriously injured after being shot in a community centre in **Stockwell**, south London. His condition was described as serious but stable.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 16 October 2009

Malcolm Parris has been jailed for eight years for his part in a robbery outside a bank in **Bradford** in December 2008 in which a man pointed what looked like a 9mm handgun at a security guard. He admitted a charge of conspiracy to rob. Four other men had already been sentenced for their part in the robbery, Ian White was jailed for 14 years for this and three other robberies, Philip Halliday received eight years, Jenson Grant eight years for his involvement in two raids and Tyler Walker four-and-a-half years.

This is Leicestershire, 16 October 2009

A woman is living in fear after a ball bearing was shot through her family's kitchen window in **Burbage**, Leicestershire. Police suspect it came from a gas-powered gun.

This is Derbyshire, 16 October 2009

Eight robbers, armed with knives and what appeared to be a gun burst into a store in **Normanton**, Derby, and dragged the owner upstairs. The gang stole cash, alcohol and cigarettes.

The Sentinel, 16 October 2009

A drug dealer found in possession of a firearm, drugs and £9000 in cash at his home in **Baddeley Green**, Stoke-on-Trent, has been jailed. Malcolm Coates had confirmed to police he had an **air rifle** but police found a rimfire rifle and ammunition in his van. Other rifles were found in the house but they did not need certificates. He was given five years for the firearms offences and a consecutive nine months for the drugs matter.

Lancashire Evening Post, 16 October 2009

A man is being hunted after parked cars were shot at with an **airgun** in **Leyland**, Lancashire. It is reported that the shots were fired by a cyclist. A man has been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm and criminal damage and released on bail (*Leyland Guardian*, 21 October 2009).

Ilkeston Advertiser, 16 October 2009

A boy was shot in the face with a **BB gun** while playing in a park in **Ilkeston**, Derbyshire. He and his friends were descended on by a group of youths three of whom punched him and another one shot him. He was hit by his right eye.

East London Advertiser, 16 October 2009

Police have arrested 137 youths in a series of raids across London targeting gang violence and aimed at taking lethal weapons off the streets. Two pistols were recovered from an address in **Tower Hamlets**. A **sawn-off shotgun**, a 9mm pistol and 70 rounds of ammunition were found at an address in **Islington**. The raids come at a time when the Metropolitan Police announced a 17% rise in gun crime in London (*BBC*, 15 October 2009).

Daily Gazette, 16 October 2009

Mathew Dillon showed off a black Colt **air pistol** at a party in **Colchester**, Essex, in September 2008. A girl called 999 and armed police went to Dillon's home. He dropped the gun when challenged. He has pleaded guilty to possession of an imitation firearm in a public place. He was given a 28-week prison sentence, suspended for two years with supervision for 18 months. The judge ordered the weapon to be forfeited and destroyed.

Coventry Telegraph, 16 October 2009

Three men forced their way into a post office in **Foleshill**, Coventry, and threatened four members of the family who live on the premises with a gun. The men demanded cash and held the family at gunpoint for 12 hours before taking a large quantity of cash from the safe. A £10,000 reward is being offered to find the men responsible (*BBC*, 27 October 2009).

The Courier (Warwick), 16 October 2009

A man has been cleared of having an illegal **sawn-off shotgun** at his home in **Warwick Gates**, Warwickshire. He had denied all knowledge of the weapon which was found by police in a shed. The fingerprints on the weapon were not his.

Beeston Today, 16 October 2009

Police recovered a single barrelled pistol from under the patio of a house in **Hunslet**, West Yorkshire. It was discovered by police executing a search warrant. A man has been arrested on suspicion of possession of a section 1 firearm.

BBC, 16 October 2009

An armed gang hijacked a woman's car in **Luton**, Bedfordshire, and demanded she hand over cash. A man has been arrested and police recovered two firearms and a machete.

BBC, 16 October 2009

Jurijs Ragazins fired a gun twice into the air in **King's Lynn**, Norfolk, when he was drunk. The weapon was an illegal gas gun. He admitted the charge of possessing a prohibited weapon and has been jailed for a month.

BBC, 16 October 2009

A motorcyclist fired a **shotgun** at a house in **Salford**, Greater Manchester, damaging the front door and doorframe.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 15 October 2009

A man produced a black handgun before threatening a staff member at a betting shop in **Armley**, Leeds. He demanded cash which was given to him, and he then left the shop. CCTV images have been released.

Salisbury Journal, 15 October 2009

James Worton-Griffiths and Shaun McEvoy stole an imitation double-barrelled shotgun from a friend's house before attempting to rob a shop in **Portsmouth**, Southampton, in July 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). Both men pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to rob and possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent. The men have been jailed for three years and four years respectively.

Runcorn and Widnes Weekly News, 15 October 2009

A man's finger had to be amputated after he was hit when shots were fired through the living room window of his home in **Halton Village**, Runcorn in Cheshire. The attack is being treated as a case of attempted murder.

Kilburn Times, 15 October 2009

Two men have denied the murder of a man who was shot dead in **Harlesden**, north west London, in May 2004. A third man denies conspiracy to murder. The trial continues.

Hemel Today, 15 October 2009

A 12-year-old boy who turned up at a care centre in **Hemel Hempstead**, Hertfordshire, had been shot in the head with an **air rifle**. He was taken to hospital. Later reports indicated that he had been shot at a friend's house and that he had been left with a hole in his head.

Get Bracknell, 15 October 2009

A man is alleged to have burst into his estranged wife's flat in **Great Hollands**, Berkshire, wielding what appeared to be a gun and threatened to kill her. He was accused of possessing an **imitation firearm** with the intention to cause fear but was found not guilty and acquitted.

Express & Star, 15 October 2009

Three men, alleged to have attempted to hijack cars in the Black Country have appeared in court. Two men deny two charges of robbery and a third defendant denies three charges of robbery, possessing an **imitation firearm** and perverting the course of justice. The court heard about two incidents in **Sedgley** and **Swindon** which resulted in cars being stolen and one in **Dudley** where the robbers left empty-handed. Shahbaz Hussain has admitted he was involved in one of the robberies (Express & Star, 22 October 2009).

East London Advertiser, 15 October 2009

An **imitation gun** was recovered during a operation in **Manor Park**, east London, by police investigating sex trafficking into Britain. Three men and a teenage girl were arrested.

Worcester News, 14 October 2009

A burger van window was shattered by a shot from an **airgun** or **BB gun**, believed to have been fired from a passing van in **Leigh Sinton**, Worcestershire.

Wandsworth Guardian, 14 October 2009

A 15-year-old has been arrested by police in **Wandsworth**, south London, for storing ammunition at home for older friends. The police have warned that teenagers in the borough are being used to store firearms for older criminals.

This is Wiltshire, 14 October 2009

A man has been accused of having a **sawn-off shotgun** which he is said to have had in **Chiseldon**, Wiltshire, in August 2009. He pleaded not guilty to possessing an altered firearm without a certificate and another firearm charge.

Sheffield Telegraph, 14 October 2009

A court has heard how two men were kidnapped and tortured in a flat in **Sheffield** after finding and then hiding a gun used to kill a teenager in the city in July 2008. The two were threatened and hit with a gun. One man is charged with assisting an offender by recovering the murder weapon, possessing the **sawn-off shotgun** after the killing, false imprisonment, possession of a firearm, and assault occasioning actual bodily harm. Another man is charged with false imprisonment, possessing a firearm and assault and a teenager faces the same charges and is also accused of assisting an offender.

Norwich Evening News, 14 October 2009

Jordan Bush pleaded guilty to having a loaded **air weapon** in a public place without lawful authority or reasonable excuse and a second charge of being drunk and disorderly. He had pulled an airgun from his bag outside a pub in **Sprowston**, Norfolk, in September 2009. He was given a 12 months community order with the requirement he carries out 120 hours unpaid work. An order was also made for the forfeiture and destruction of the weapon.

Manchester Evening News, 14 October 2009

CCTV pictures have been released showing two men threatening staff and customers at a store in **Trafford**, Greater Manchester, with a handgun during a raid in August 2009. The men stole hundreds of pounds in cash from the tills.

Garstang Courier, 14 October 2009

Two men were arrested after a shooting in **Bilsborrow**, Lancashire. A man reported he had been shot at after an **air rifle** was fired. He was not injured.

Cambs Times, 14 October 2009

Lucas Bailey has admitted possessing a **stun gun**, a knife and class C drugs at his home in **Chatteris**, Cambridgeshire. The stun gun was bought from Wisbech market according to his solicitor. Bailey was ordered to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work and pay costs.

Bromley Times, 14 October 2009

Two men have been charged with conspiracy to commit robbery and the unlawful possession of a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence. They were arrested in **Bromley**, south London.

BBC, 14 October 2009

Two men and a woman have been arrested after a police raid on a house in **Washington**, County Durham, in which a **shotgun** was recovered.

BBC, 14 October 2009

A handgun was among the items seized during a series of raids in **Speke** aimed at targeting suspected drug dealing in Liverpool.

Sutton Borough Guardian, 13 October 2009

Sachmo Quain has been jailed for eight years for firing a gun when two gangs, Terror Zone and Stick Up Kids, began fighting with belts as weapons outside a club in **Sutton**, south London, in September 2009. Police recovered a loaded **sawn-off shotgun**, belts and knives. Quain was found guilty of two counts of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life. Five others have been found guilty of other charges.

Peterborough Evening Telegraph, 13 October 2009

Two men threatened a member of staff at a store in **Huntingdon** with a gun and demanded he hand over money from the till. The men left after taking the money.

Oxford Times, 13 October 2009

Three men entered a petrol station in **Oxford** and threatened a member of staff with what police said had been described as a **plastic gun**. The men took £50 in cash from the till.

Ilford Recorder, 13 October 2009

Three raiders threatened to shoot a shopkeeper in **Newbury Park**, east London, unless he handed over hundreds of pounds. The shopkeeper had already pressed the panic alarm when one of the men pulled out a gun, covered in brown cloth, and aimed it at him. The shopkeeper was punched during the robbery.

Express & Star, 13 October 2009

Two men, one a teenager, who are on trial both deny two charges of possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life, two of possession an firearm or imitation firearm to cause fear of violence and violent disorder. The charges follow a shooting in which a nightclub boss and two bouncers were hit when at least five shots were fired from two Russian-made pistols in **Bilston**, West Midlands, in September 2008 (see [Incidents](#)).

Watford Observer, 12 October 2009

A man will appear in court charged with possession of a **shotgun** with intent to cause fear of violence to two women in **St Albans**, Hertfordshire, as well as charges of dangerous driving, causing damage to two police vehicles and robbing a woman of a handbag.

Streatham Guardian, 12 October 2009

A drive-by shooting of a group of six teenagers in **Mitcham**, south London, was a case of mistaken identity according to police. Only one of the group was hit in the attack. He was hit in the leg but has since been released from hospital. A semi-automatic machine gun, possibly a Mac 10, was fired by a passenger on the back of a motorbike.

Southend Standard, 12 October 2009

Christopher Mitchell has admitted driving around with a pistol and eight cartridges in the back of his car. He was stopped after being spotted driving erratically in **Southend**, Essex. He was jailed for five years for one count of possession of a firearm and a further two years for possession of ammunition without a firearm certificate, two years for two counts of possession of a firearm when prohibited and further sentences for motoring offences, all these sentences to run concurrently.

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 12 October 2009

A man has denied being connected to a Russian pistol, ammunition and silencer discovered in an abandoned car in **Far Cotton**, Northampton. He denied possessing the firearm without a certificate or that traces of his DNA were found on the weapon.

Coventry Telegraph, 12 October 2009

A man was shot in the leg as he was leaving his home in **Longford**, near Coventry. He was sitting in his car at the time of the attack, which is believed to have been targeted. Three gunshots are believed to have broken the victim's leg (*Coventry Telegraph*, 13 October 2009).

Shields Gazette, 10 October 2009

Alan Turner burst into a store in **South Shields**, Tyneside, in May 2009 (see [Incidents](#)), brandishing a handgun and demanding money. He pointed the gun at the manager and terrified customers. He was out on bail on licence for a 10-year sentence at the time. He pleaded guilty to robbery and possession of a firearm, revealed to be an **air pistol**, and has been jailed indefinitely for public protection and will serve a minimum of five years.

Echo, 10 October 2009

Terence Holliday walked into a police station in **Southend**, Essex, with a **toy gun** in March 2009. He has pleaded guilty to the possession of an imitation weapon with intent and been ordered to seek mental health treatment.

Daily Gazette, 10 October 2009

Stuart Maddams was caught with an **airgun**, cannabis and drug paraphernalia in a car in **Sible Hedingham**, Essex, in May 2009. He admitted possession of an airgun in a public place and possession of a class B drug. The judge believed the weapon was used for intimidation purposes. Maddams was given a 16-week prison sentence for each of the offences, suspended for one year. He was also given a curfew order.

BBC, 10 October 2009

Four men have been jailed for conspiracy to possess a firearm but were clear of charges relating to a drive-by shooting of a house in **Fulbourn**, Cambridge, in April 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). Matthew Carpenter and Marlon Robinson, who were also found guilty of drug charges, were jailed for 15 years and 10 years, respectively. Duncan Berry and Aymon Popo received three-and-a-half year sentences. Three other men were cleared of firearms offences.

Wigan Today, 9 October 2009

Anthony Seddon from **Wigan**, Lancashire, was jailed for six-and-a-half years in January 2009 after being found guilty of drugs offences, money laundering and possession of a **stun gun**. He has now been stripped of £200,000 by the courts.

Sunderland Echo, 9 October 2009

A man who had a **.22 calibre air rifle** in the front bedroom at his home in **Sunderland** has admitted possession of a firearm while prohibited through previous convictions. The rifle was tested by experts and found to be capable of firing 31.77 fps and therefore lethal. He was given a 36 weeks prison sentence suspended for 12 months with supervision and programme requirements.

Scarborough Evening News, 9 October 2009

Jamie Snow carried out a string of violent robberies across Yorkshire in 2008, including one in **Scarborough** when he threatened to shoot a man, as well as robbing a taxi driver and threatening pizza shop workers with a fake firearm. Earlier this year he admitted robbery, attempted robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm** and was jailed for 11 years. He has had his sentence reduced on appeal and now has an eight-and-a-half jail and will remain on an "extended licence" for five years after he is released. The other offences were carried out in **Bramley** (*Yorkshire Evening Post*, 13 October 2009).

Liverpool Daily Post, 9 October 2009

Seven firearms and ammunition have been recovered from gardens in **Old Swan** and **Kirkby** on Merseyside. A man has been charged with possession of three firearms and ammunition. A number of other people including a woman and two teenagers were arrested.

BBC, 9 October 2009

Nathan Harris, 16, was found guilty of murder after he set off a train of events which led to the killing of a man in **Shepherd's Bush**, west London, in December 2008 (see [Incident](#)). He made a series of calls after spotting the victim who had "dissed" his friend. Within 35 minutes the victim was shot dead. Two men and the 17-year-old were cleared of murder. Harris has been jailed and will serve a minimum of 16 years. Khalid Elsheikh, who was cleared of murder, was jailed for 10 years after being found guilty of a separate charge of possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life (**BBC**, 14 October 2009).

BBC, 9 October 2009

A video has emerged which apparently shows a police officer in body armour allowing himself to be shot with a powerful **air pistol**. The footage which also shows him firing at his friends has been put on YouTube. The pistol is sufficiently powerful to shatter a glass bottle with a single shot. A spokesman for the **Metropolitan Police** said it was investigating.

BBC, 9 October 2009

A 15-year-old boy sustained serious injuries when he was shot in the chest in **Clapham**, south London. A man gave himself up to police and is being questioned (*Mirror*, 27 October 2009).

This is Wiltshire, 8 October 2009

Police seized two guns, an **air rifle** and an **imitation handgun**, knives and cash during a drugs raid in **Devizes**, Wiltshire. A teenager was arrested on suspicion of possession of drugs with intent to supply.

Daily Mail, 8 October 2009

Chanelle Merryweather has pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited weapon after she was caught with a loaded gun, a Browning 7.65mm pistol, in her handbag outside a disco in **Brunswick**, Manchester, in April 2009. She was 16 at the time and was minding the weapon for her boyfriend Sammy Geldard, 19, a member of a Manchester gang. He has pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm.

Croydon Guardian, 8 October 2009

A man used a handgun to threaten staff at a building society in **South Croydon**, south London. He fled empty-handed after staff activated a security screen.

Cambridge News, 8 October 2009

Nineteen-year-old Nathaniel Tume has pleaded guilty to robbery, attempted robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm** during a robbery has been sent to a young offenders' institution for two-and-a-half years. He brandished the weapon, a cigarette lighter which looked like a handgun, at a 13-year-old boy and threatened to shoot him, forced him to hand over his mobile phone. The incident occurred in **Haverhill**, Suffolk, in October 2008. His accomplice Thomas Spinks was jailed for three years and four months.

Warrington Guardian, 7 October 2009

A man who had stood outside another man's home with a chainsaw running was found to have a samurai sword in the boot of his car, an **air pistol** in his trouser pocket and a wrap of cocaine when he was arrested by police. Andrew Pickles from **Lymm**, Cheshire, was given 80 hours community service.

Wandsworth Guardian, 7 October 2009

Two youths on motor scooters fired shots into a car in **Battersea**, south London. No one was hurt but the car windows were smashed.

This is Wiltshire, 7 October 2009

A teenager was robbed at gunpoint by two youths who forced him to hand over his mobile phone and wallet. The incident took place as the victim walked along a street in **Chippenham**, Wiltshire. Two suspects were arrested and both charged with robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm**.

This is Derbyshire, 7 October 2009

Peter Roper admitted possession of a **stun gun** which police found during a search of his home in **Derby**. He was given a 17-week prison term, suspended for two years.

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 7 October 2009

A woman has been left terrified after having the window of her living room in **Northampton** shot at. It was the third time the home's windows have been smashed. Police believe an **air weapon** was involved.

Hounslow Chronicle, 7 October 2009

A man was in a critical condition in hospital after being shot in **Feltham**, west London.

Hemsworth and South Elmsall Express, 7 October 2009

An **air rifle**, baseball bat and drugs were found during raids in South Elmsall, West Yorkshire.

BBC, 7 October 2009

A man carrying a handgun entered a post office in **Ouston**, County Durham, and demanded cash. When the postmaster refused he left the store empty-handed. The gun was not discharged.

BBC, 7 October 2009

A man was chased by armed police officers after being seen with what is believed was a **gas-powered pellet gun** at **Tottenham Court Road** underground station, central London. A man was arrested and remained in custody.

BBC, 7 October 2009

A man aimed a pistol at the face of a moped rider man and pulled the trigger in **West Hampstead**, north west London. The gun failed to fire. The man was attempting to escape from the police and was trying to steal the moped. He was later arrested as was a second man. Three guns and a quantity of diamonds were recovered. Tests are being carried out to find out why the gun did not go off.

Wiltshire Times, 6 October 2009

Shelley Douglas disposed of an **air rifle** for her boyfriend after he had brandished it in a street in **Trowbridge**, Wiltshire, in March 2009, during a fracas with another man. She pleaded guilty to perverting the course of justice and was given a two year conditional discharge. Firearms charges against her partner, Jason Inman, were dropped and he was bound over to keep the peace after admitting a public order offence.

St Albans & Harpenden Review, 6 October 2009

A 19-year-old who was jailed after robbing a pregnant woman at gunpoint has had his sentence reduced. He had threatened to shoot the woman and her unborn child before stealing puppies, mobile phones and a kitchen knife. Niikwao Nunoo from **Welham Green**, Hertfordshire, had pleaded guilty to two counts of robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm**. He had his sentence reduced from six years to five years.

Norwich Evening News, 6 October 2009

A burglar who pleaded guilty to robbing an elderly widow and asked for 32 other offences to be taken into consideration also admitted possessing an air weapon. Police found a spring-loaded **air weapon**, which Minnie Boy Lee was banned from owning, in his caravan at **Mile Cross**, Norfolk. He said the firearm had been one he had picked up on his travels. He was jailed for two years and nine months for all the offences.

Mirror, 6 October 2009

A man has been arrested after police allegedly found a firearm, **stun gun**, CS gas and a grenade in **Islington**, north London. The man had been wanted since 2006 in connection with an armed robbery in **Liverpool**.

Herald (Plymouth), 6 October 2009

An **air rifle** sniper shot a teenage car driver, hitting him in the wrist. The shooting took place as the victim was driving along a street in **Plymouth**.

Guardian (Epping Forest, Waltham Forest, Woodford & Wanstead), 6 October 2009

A group of men began firing **shotguns** in a field in **Epping**, Essex, before driving off on a at least one quadbike. The police say they have found no evidence of any gunfire but residents are convinced that shots were fired.

Evening Courier, 6 October 2009

A pensioner has been found shot dead in **Brighouse**, West Yorkshire. It is believed he had suffered a single gunshot wound. Police say they are not treating his death as suspicious.

BBC, 6 October 2009

A teenager was shot in the shoulder in **Dovecot**, Merseyside. Police believe the victim had been targeted. Three men and two women have been arrested.

BBC, 6 October 2009

A man was shot dead in a street in **Clapton**, east London. Police were called following reports of gunshots and found the victim with gunshot wounds. He died at the scene. Two men have been arrested. The shooting is thought to be part of a feud between drug gangs and detectives are examining possible links between this murder and the fatal shooting of a man in **Tottenham** a few days earlier (*Times*, 7 October 2009).

Stroud News & Journal, 5 October 2009

A man from **Minchinhampton**, Gloucestershire, has appeared in court and pleaded not guilty to possessing a firearm, a bolt action rifle, a pre-charged **air rifle** and two sound moderators without a firearms certificate, and to one count of possessing expanding ammunition and one count of possessing ammunition without holding a firearms certificate.

Hertfordshire Mercury, 5 October 2009

Gary Childs has been given a 12-month community order after being caught with an **air pistol** in **Turnford**, Hertfordshire. He was stopped by police on suspicion of drink driving and the pistol was found in his van. (See [January 2009 Incidents](#))

Harrow Times, 5 October 2009

A man has appeared in court charged with conspiracy to commit armed robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm**. He was arrested as part of a probe into armed robberies across **Brent** and **Harrow**, north west London.

Evening Standard, 5 October 2009

A policeman had a pistol held to his head after he chased and cornered a youth who had shot at him in **Hackney**, east London. The offender was one of four youths on bikes the officer wanted to question.

Birmingham Mail, 5 October 2009

Four men, two of them teenagers, who terrorised shopkeepers in a spate of attacks on stores and off-licences have been sent to a young offenders' institution for between four-and-a-half and six years and three months. Chioke Williams admitted three robberies, one attempted robbery and four charges of possession of an **imitation firearm** and handling stolen goods. Daniel Dubidat, Jason Woodley and Nathan Ali each pleaded guilty to two charges of robbery, one attempted robbery and three charges of possessing an **imitation firearm**. The gang were caught after an attempted robbery in **Hamstead**, West Midlands, in May 2008 when the shopkeeper refused to open the till and his son raised the alarm.

Beeston Today, 5 October 2009

Police ordered a pub landlady in **Beeston**, West Yorkshire, to lock in her customers amid fears there was a gunman on the loose. There was a clash between a group of youths and reports there had been a shooting and stabbing. Five teenagers were arrested and an **air rifle** recovered from the scene.

BBC, 5 October 2009

Paul Allen has admitted conspiracy to kidnap, rob and possessing a firearm and been jailed for 18 years. He was part of the gang responsible for the £53 million robbery at a security depot at **Tonbridge**, Kent in 2006 (see [Incidents](#)).

BBC, 5 October 2009

A firearm thought to have been a pistol was discharged on a street in **South Tyneside**. The weapon was used to fire a blank. A man was being held on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and a second man has also been arrested (*BBC*, 6 October 2009).

BBC, 5 October 2009

Two men and a woman are being held by police on suspicion of violent disorder and possession of a firearm following reports of a shooting in **Bedford**.

Guardian, 4 October 2009

A man was in a serious condition in hospital after he was shot by police marksmen in **Holloway**, north London. The police had been called after reports of gunshots and they confronted a man firing from a property.

Northern Echo, 3 October 2009

A man armed with what is believed to have been a handgun walked into a bank in **Redcar**, Teesside, and threatened staff and customers. He left empty handed. A man has been charged with attempted robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence (*Evening Gazette*, 6 October 2009).

BBC, 3 October 2009

A man has been shot dead in his car by a motorcyclist in **Tottenham**, north London. The victim was shot in the head and managed to leave his vehicle before collapsing in the street.

Wembley & Kingsbury Times, 2 October 2009

Three men, one armed with a gun and another with a knife, robbed a mini-mart in **Wembley**, north west London. Cigarettes and alcohol were stolen.

This is Lincolnshire, 2 October 2009

A high-powered **airgun** that fires ball bearings and a cannabis plant were seized by police during one of three drug raids in **Lincoln**.

This is Kent, 2 October 2009

A man seen waving a gun around in the car park of a supermarket in **Sittingbourne**, Kent, was arrested for possession of an **imitation firearm**.

Redditch & Alcester Standard, 2 October 2009

Liam Chakanetsa ordered another man to hand over cash, drugs and a mobile phone after mistaking him for a drug pusher. He rammed an **imitation gun** into his victim's mouth in a mugging in **Redditch**, Worcestershire. Chakanetsa pleaded guilty to robbery and having an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear and has been jailed for two-and-a-half years.

Messenger, 2 October 2009

Ian Foden has admitted possession of a firearm and ammunition and been sentenced to five years in prison. A 9mm self-loading pistol and 19 rounds of ammunition were recovered when police executed a warrant at his home in **Stretford**, Greater Manchester.

Lancaster Guardian, 2 October 2009

A teenager brandishing an **air rifle** shot at three police officers from the window of his home in **Heysham**, Lancashire. One officer was hit in the chest, another in the groin and a third in the buttocks. Several cars were damaged. A 19-year-old has been charged with three counts of criminal damage, three counts of assaulting a police officer, affray, possession of an air rifle with intent to endanger life and possession of an air rifle with intent to cause fear of violence.

Dewsbury Reporter, 2 October 2009

A **stun gun** was among a stash of weapons and cannabis were seized by police during a raid on a flat in **Dewsbury**, West Yorkshire. A man was arrested.

BBC, 2 October 2009

Two men carrying a **shotgun** stole a bag containing a large sum of money from a car which had been waiting at traffic lights in **Cradley Heath**, Birmingham.

Weston & Somerset Mercury, 1 October 2009

A taxi driver sustained an injury to his finger when an **airgun** pellet was fired through the window of his vehicle in **Weston-super-Mare**, Somerset.

Tottenham, Wood Green & Edmonton Journal, 1 October 2009

Police are offering a £20,000 reward for information about men responsible for the rape of a pregnant woman in her home in **Finsbury Park**, north London, in May 2008. Three men forced their way into the house, pushed a man to the floor and held an object believed to be a **sawn-off shotgun** to his head. They ransacked the house and one of the attackers forced the woman to perform a sex act, threatening to shoot her and her boyfriend if she didn't obey him. Property and a car were stolen.

This is Gloucestershire, 1 October 2009

A man was arrested after reports of gunfire in **Gloucester**. A man was firing an **air rifle** at a fence in a car park.

This is Walsall, 1 October 2009

There have been a number of shooting incidents in **Bloxwich**, West Midlands, in the last month. Four separate attacks have happened in the High Street which the perpetrator has taken random pot shots at people. A car window was smashed with what was believed to be an **air rifle** pellet, a woman was shot at three times, a man was shot in the arm and an eight-year-old girl was narrowly missed by a pellet.

BBC, 1 October 2009

Passengers were left shaken after a weapon, thought to be a **shotgun**, was fired at a bus in **Bradford**. Two windows were damaged.

SCOTLAND

Evening News, 31 October 2009

Stephen Henderson was caught with a handgun in a car park in **Hermiston Gait**, Edinburgh, in August 2008. He admitted having the illegal weapon and was given a life sentence.

BBC, 29 October 2009

A teenage woman was forced by two teenage men, armed with what looked like a handgun, to hand over money from the till of a cafe in **Edinburgh**. They fled with only £40.

BBC, 29 October 2009

Jae Robertson, 16, was part of a masked gang which beat up a man in **Aberdeen** who had tried to calm a disturbance (see [August 2009 Incidents](#)). The victim was disfigured during an attack with a **stun gun**. Robertson has been sent to a young offenders' institution for two-and-a-half years.

Evening News, 28 October 2009

Mark Cochrane from **Linlithgow**, West Lothian, went to his ex-wife's home with a black **imitation handgun** and threatened her husband. His victim believed it was a real gun. Cochrane has pleaded guilty to breach of the peace and to breaching the Firearms Act by causing his victim to fear unlawful violence and has been jailed for nearly three years.

BBC, 28 October 2009

Brian McCulloch, Steven Caddis, Stephen Jamieson and Gary Caddis have pleaded guilty to supplying illegal drugs and have been jailed for ten, six, eight and five years respectively. During raids on properties in **Glasgow**, **Paisley** and **Clydebank** which formed part of the surveillance operation on the men, the police seized two Mac 10 machine guns, three **sawn-off shotguns**, four **shotguns**, 11 rifles, eight handguns and 3400 rounds of ammunition.

BBC, 28 October 2009

A man has been reported to the procurator fiscal over an alleged firearms incident on farmland, south of **Foveran**, Aberdeenshire. A number of armed police officers attended the incident.

BBC, 24 October 2009

A man with a **stun gun**-type weapon tried to rob a woman in **Maryhill**, Glasgow. He threatened his victim and demanded she hand over her bag, but she managed to fight him off and he fled empty-handed.

stv, 23 October 2009

Michael Coyne was caught with a handgun he had been asked to look after just minutes earlier. He was stopped by police in **Parkhead**, Glasgow, in June 2009 after he was seen putting the firearm down the front of his trousers. He admitted three firearm charges and was jailed for five years and two months.

Evening Express, 21 October 2009

Michael Fraser has admitted carrying an **imitation firearm** and causing a 13-year-old boy to believe it would be used against him. The offence took place in a street in **Aberdeen** in October 2008.

The Sun, 15 October 2009

A man who sparked a security alert when he threatened to send someone armed with a **shotgun** to a nursery school in **Coupar Angus**, Perthshire, in May 2009 to settle a row has admitted breaching the peace. Alexander Donaldson was fined £360.

Highland News, 15 October 2009

Kyle Angus has been ordered to carry out 300 hours of community service after pleading guilty to drug charges and with having in his possession an electronic **stun gun**. The drugs and gun were found at his house in **Inverness** in March 2009.

BBC, 14 October 2009

A man who robbed a pharmacy in **Ayr** in January 2009 whilst armed with his son's **toy gun** has been jailed for six years. Colin Rae admitted taking cash and drugs.

Teletext, 11 October 2009

A woman has allegedly been shot in the face with an **airgun** in **Montrose**. A man has been arrested.

Perthshire Advertiser, 9 October 2009

Adam Stirling has admitted assaulting a 15-year-old girl by "discharging a **BB gun** at her leg to her injury" in **Milnathort**, Kinross-shire, in September 2008. He also admitted injuring a 12-year-old girl by firing a catapult. He was one of three teenagers who attacked children in the town in 2008 who were condemned as "utterly wicked" by a sheriff. He was ordered to pay compensation to his victims and must return to court after attending a three-month rehabilitation course for offenders.

Evening Telegraph and Post, 9 October 2009

A 15-year-old girl has been partially blinded after being shot in the eye with a pellet from a **BB gun**. It is feared that because of significant damage to vital blood vessels the victim may never recover her sight fully. She was walking with a friend in **Whitfield**, Dundee, when they were approached by a youth who shot at them several times. Both girls were hit in the attack. A 13-year-old has been arrested and charged (*Press & Journal*, 10 October 2009).

Evening News, 7 October 2009

A pensioner has been left a prisoner in his flat in **Leith** by a gang of youths. He fears the gang may have started using **airguns** on his home after finding a pellet-sized hole in a bedroom window.

BBC, 6 October 2009

Fourteen people have been arrested over suspected firearms offences in a major anti-crime drive, Break the Circle of Violence, run by **Strathclyde** Police.

Daily Record, 3 October 2009

Keyvan Karami from **Musselburgh**, Midlothian, was caught in possession of a **stun gun**. He has been sentenced to 200 hours' community service (*Daily Record*, 16 October 2009).

WALES

South Wales Argus, 29 October 2009

Jamie Thomas has admitted possession of an imitation firearm, a **BB gun**, in a public place for possession and possession of an **air rifle**. Both charges related to an incident in **Brynmawr**, Gwent, in March 2009.

BBC, 27 October 2009

A man from **Caerphilly**, Mid Glamorgan, who was arrested under the Terrorism Act has been charged with possessing a firearm, an improvised muzzle loading firearm, and also explosive substances.

South Wales Echo, 24 October 2009

David Evans was found by his landlord to be growing cannabis in his property in **Pontypridd**, Mid Glamorgan. He has admitted possessing and producing cannabis, abstracting electricity and two counts of possessing a prohibited weapon, a pepper spray and a **stun gun**. He was jailed for 18 months.

South Wales Echo, 20 October 2009

David Rees was caught in possession of a **stun gun** in **Portmead**, Swansea. He admitted he was unlawfully in possession of a prohibited weapon, a stun gun. He also pleaded guilty to using violence for the purpose of securing entry to a home. He will be sentenced later.

South Wales Echo, 17 October 2009

Martin Clayton was given a 26-week prison sentence, suspended for two years after he admitted being in possession of a prohibited weapon. A **stun gun** was found when police were called to a pub in **Pontyclun**, Mid Glamorgan, in April 2009.

Daily Post, 15 October 2009

A woman has described how masked robbers armed with a gun attacked her family during a raid at the home in **Colwyn Bay**, Clwyd, in August 2009. The men forced her partner to hand over cash and fled.

BBC, 15 October 2009

A suspect who walked into a bank in **Sketty**, Swansea, is believed to have been carrying a black coloured handgun. He asked staff members to open a door leading to a secure area but left empty handed when they refused. There are believed to be links to another attempted robbery on a bank which took place in Swansea in August 2009 (*BBC*, 21 October 2009).

South Wales Evening Post, 13 October 2009

A number of weapons and stolen property have been recovered by police searching for James Stevenson who escaped from court in Swansea after being sentenced for a firearms offence (see below). Fourteen premises in the **Swansea** area and as far a field as **Cardiff** were searched, and among the weapons found were **air weapons** and a **BB gun**.

South Wales Evening Post, 7 October 2009

Alan Smith from **Neath**, one of a number of men who have admitted drug offences, also pleaded guilty to unrelated firearms offences, involving his unlawful possession of an **air pistol** and two **air rifles** in February 2008. He was jailed for six years.

South Wales Evening Post, 7 October 2009

A court has heard how a postmaster in **Briton Ferry**, West Glamorgan, was held at gunpoint during a robbery in May 2009. Two men armed with a pistol and a samurai sword stole £26,000 from a safe. Richard Morgan has pleaded guilty to the robbery. His brother Ryad Morgan pleaded not guilty but was found guilty (*South Wales Evening Post*, 7 October 2009).

BBC, 1 October 2009

James Stevenson from **Dyfatty**, Swansea, was given a five year jail sentence after admitting possessing a **.410 shotgun** and breaching the terms of his licence. Minutes later he absconded but has since been recaptured (*BBC*, 19 October 2009).

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Arbroath Herald, 30 October 2009

A cat has been left weak and still in need of veterinary treatment after being shot in **Arbroath**, Angus. A pellet from an **airgun** or **BB gun** is lodged inside her chest.

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 27 October 2009

A cat who limped into her home in **Wootton Fields**, Northampton, with a swollen, misshapen front leg had been shot with an **air rifle**. She had to undergo an operation to remove a pellet.

West Lothian Courier, 22 October 2009

A cat has needed three weeks of intensive vet care after being shot with a **shotgun**. He went missing from his home in **Broxburn**, West Lothian, and was found a few days later after crawling through a catflap in a nearby house. He had injuries to his face, jaw and legs.

Selby Times, 22 October 2009

A cat was found battered, shot and abandoned in the middle of a main road in **Selby**, North Yorkshire. She has been treated at a vets and is now being cared for by one of the police officers who found her.

Oxford Mail, 22 October 2009

A cat had to have a four-hour operation after she was shot with an **airgun** in **Wantage**, Oxfordshire. A pellet lodged millimetres from her spine.

Telegraph & Argus, 19 October 2009

A cat found limping with blood on her legs by her owner in **Oakenshaw**, Bradford, had been shot with an **airgun**. A pellet lodged in her shoulder was removed in an operation.

This is Leicestershire, 13 October 2009

A pet dog was fatally shot in **Shepshed**, Leicestershire. It died three days after being hit with an **airgun** pellet.

Eastern Daily Press, 13 October 2009

A cat is recovering after being shot with an **air rifle** in **Watton**, Norfolk. He was found bleeding under a bed at his owner's home and an examination at the vets showed he had a pellet lodged in his shoulder.

Cambs Times, 13 October 2009

A swan with two three barbed hooks embedded in its face, which was rescued from the River Great Ouse close to **Ely**, Cambridgeshire, was also found to have an **air weapon** pellet in its chest when examined by a vet.

RSPCA, 12 October 2009

A cat seen limping and then found under a car in **Luton**, Bedfordshire, was discovered to have two **air weapon** pellets lodged in his abdomen. He was put to sleep to prevent further suffering.

Evesham Journal, 12 October 2009

A cat was treated by vets after it was shot in the shoulder with an **airgun** in **Evesham**, Worcestershire.

Romford Recorder, 9 October 2009

A cat shot twice with an **air rifle** in **Gidea Park**, east London, may have to be put down. Her owner first thought she had been hit with a car but X-rays revealed two pellets lodged inside her.

Northern Scot, 9 October 2009

A cat from **Forres**, Morayshire, has been maimed for life after an **air rifle** pellet shattered his left foreleg.

Evening Telegraph (Northants), 9 October 2009

A cat is recovering after finding its way home having been shot and missing for four days. The pet was shot with a **pellet gun** or an **air weapon** in **Corby**, Northamptonshire. An RSPCA inspector said it was lucky she was not more seriously injured.

Western Morning News, 5 October 2009

Two stags belonging to a landowner in **Pixton**, Somerset, have been shot and killed with a high-powered rifle.

This is Derbyshire, 3 October 2009

A pet dog has been shot in the garden of his home in **Sinfin**, Derby. His owner discovered a pellet-sized hole on the side of his face. A neighbour reported heading a gunshot at the time of the injury.

Wigan Today, 1 October 2009

A cat has been blinded in one eye after being shot with an **air rifle** in **Kitt Green**, Greater Manchester. Her owners say she was lucky to be alive.

Get Bracknell, 1 October 2009

A prized racing pigeon has been shot and killed in **Sandhurst**, Berkshire. The bird was found in a ditch by its owner. The shooting was the latest of a number of incidents involving **airguns** in the area. Police have seized several air weapons in recent weeks.

Evesham Journal, 1 October 2009

A barn owl, one of the country's most protected species, was found shot dead in **Pershore**, Worcestershire. It appears that a person wielding an **air rifle** was responsible.



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