



SEPTEMBER 2008 - SUMMARY

- **Airguns**

At the beginning of the month eighteen-month-old Rashid Ullah died from the injuries he received in August when his sister picked up an airgun being used in their garden by their father and fired it at his head. In its response to a recent BBC programme which highlighted concerns about the seriousness of airgun incidents and the lack of responsibility shown by owners, the Home Office was as dismissive as ever of a registration scheme, claiming it would be "costly and bureaucratic". Home Officer Ministers point to the measures introduced in the Violent Crime Reduction Act, but judging by the incidents reported in September the measures have done little to protect the public from those who arm themselves with airguns and target people, pets and property. This is not surprising since the measures did nothing to get these weapons out of the hands of those who already have them and misuse them or to ensure the guns are stored safely so they cannot be picked up and used at random. The Airguns, Incidents Involving Animals and Airgun (Court Cases) sections below reveal the seriousness of many of the incidents. These are not pranks committed with boys' toys, these are acts which injure, intimidate and threaten. How much more evidence is required to demonstrate that airguns can be just as destructive to peoples' lives, wellbeing and safety as any other firearm? There is no justification for treating them any differently and it is time for these guns to be registered. This wouldn't harm those who have a genuine reason for owning airguns, but it would begin to get them away from those whose actions contribute half of all firearm offences and cause approximately a quarter of all firearms injuries.

Joan Walley MP has an early day motion in Parliament calling for an airgun registration scheme which holds owners responsible for what happens to their guns. We urge all MPs concerned about the dozens of airgun incidents we report each month to sign the motion and kick the Home Office out of its complacency.

- **Homicides**

There was only one fatal shooting attack reported in September and, with the exception of the higher number of gun homicides in August, there have been two or less in each month since April, significantly lower than the recent average for England and Wales. There have been no gun homicides in Scotland for more than a year, the last occurring in August 2007.

- **Shotguns**

GCN has noted an increased number of incidents involving **shotguns** this month and these are highlighted. Many of those convicted in the court cases reported during September had shotguns. We are uncertain

whether this indicates an increased use of shotguns in crime but we will be monitoring the situation.

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - One man died as a result of a gun attack in September - his wife was also seriously injured in the double shooting in Porth Kea (Cornwall), and the suspected gunman was taken to hospital with self-inflicted wounds and is under arrest.
- There appear to have been no suspicious circumstances in two other fatal shootings: one man was found dead at a pub in Fernhurst (Sussex) and another at his house in Arrington (Cambridge).
- There were several shooting incidents reported in September that resulted in injury. These occurred in:
 - Bristol - a teenager was injured in the groin in a shooting at a nightclub
 - Cornwall - see above
 - Greater Manchester - a man was seriously injured in Stockport and needed emergency treatment for gunshot wounds to his chest and leg (a man has been arrested)
 - Hertfordshire - two men were shot and injured during an armed attack on security guards at a supermarket in Tring (see below)
 - Leeds - a man was shot in the chest in the Harehills area
 - London - a man has described how he was shot in the head at his home in Addiscombe (south London) in August but escaped with minor injuries, and a doorman suffered a bullet wound in a shooting in South Woodford (north-east London)
 - Merseyside - in two apparently targeted attacks a man was shot in the leg in Croxteth and another was shot in the leg in Birkenhead - the injuries to neither victim were believed to be life threatening
 - Suffolk - a man received serious head injuries after a shooting in the village of Wickham Skieth (a man has been arrested)
 - Tyneside - a man is recovering after being shot in the lower stomach at a pub in Chapel House (a man has been arrested)
 - West Midlands - in three separate incidents a man was shot in the back in Newtown (Birmingham), another received a gunshot wound to his leg in Tipton (a man has been arrested) and three people were injured during a shooting in Bilston
- There were also injuries to several victims of airgun attacks (see below).
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - Five armed attacks on security guards, apparently involving guns, were reported.
 - In Andover (Hampshire) three men snatched a cash box from security guards
 - Two people, a security guard and a shopper who tried to intervene, were shot during a raid at a supermarket in Tring (Hertfordshire)
 - Security guards and staff at a garage in West Timperley (Greater Manchester) were intimidated by a gang armed with a **shotgun** who stole cigarettes
 - Two security van guards were threatened by a man with a gun at a supermarket in Windsor (Berkshire)
 - A masked gang robbed security guards delivering money to cash machines in Boston (Lincolnshire) - one guard was kicked in the face and an object which may have been a gun was seen during the raid

- Two men armed with a small handgun stole cash boxes in Rusthall (Kent)
- There were robberies and attempted robberies by men apparently armed with guns on a bank in Dundee (nothing was stolen), on bookmakers in Heanor (Nottinghamshire) and Barnsley (South Yorkshire), and on shops in Cheadle Hulme (Greater Manchester) and Buttershaw (West Yorkshire). Two men have been charged over a robbery at a betting shop in Ilford (east London).
- A man was robbed at gunpoint in the street in Earl's Court (west London) and an elderly woman had her handbag grabbed in a street robbery in Norris Green (Liverpool). Four residents of Westcliff (Essex) were robbed at gunpoint in a series of crimes: a teenager has been arrested. Two teenagers were attacked in a suspected gunpoint robbery in Deepdale (Preston).
- In another incident in Norris Green (Liverpool) a man was threatened with a **shotgun** during a carjacking.
- Armed robbers used a stun gun and CS gas when stealing two computers, a phone and cash from a man at his home in Prestwich (Manchester). A man was attacked with a stun gun and had his car and cash stolen in Kings Langley (Hertfordshire).
- **Other Incidents** - A **shotgun** was fired at a police car as it followed a stolen vehicle in Salford: a man was later arrested and a gun recovered.
- A number of people were arrested in Knowsley (Merseyside) after incidents that included one in which a shot was fired through a taxi window and another in which two men on a motorcycle opened fire into the air.
- Four people were arrested after a firearm was discharged following an altercation in Wigston Fields (Leicester). One man was arrested after reports of a firearm being discharged in St Ann's (Nottingham). A gun was fired in a street in Darwen (Lancashire) after the resident of a house was threatened by a gang.
- A **shotgun** was fired at the rear of a taxi in Granton (Edinburgh). The incident may be linked to another in Edinburgh in which a gun was discharged outside a pub in Broomhouse - two men have been arrested.
- Three men were arrested after brandishing a sawn-off **shotgun** outside a pub in Elland (West Yorkshire).
- A group of men are accused of holding two men hostage in Thamesmead (south east London) after the victims were abducted at gunpoint from a sports store in West London.
- Armed police went to a property in Chatham (Kent) after reports that a man had been spotted with a firearm. A man was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm after someone was apparently spotted with a gun in a car near Aberdare (South Wales).
- A man was arrested under the Firearms Act after a siege in Liskeard (Cornwall).
- A man who brandished a handgun after a party in Waterfoot (Lancashire) is being sought by police.
- **Gun Finds and Losses** - Firearms were recovered and a number of arrests made following police searches.
 - Five people were arrested after a **shotgun** was found during a search in Birkenhead (Merseyside)
 - A loaded **shotgun** was found in the front garden of a house in Chorley (Lancashire) - three people were arrested but were all released on bail

- A loaded pistol was recovered by police from a house in Handsworth (Birmingham) - a man was arrested
- Two self-loading pistols were found at a property in Moss Side (Manchester) - three people have been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm
- A loaded gun and a large sum of cash were found during a raid in Aldermaston (Berkshire) - two of the four men arrested have been charged with firearms offences
- A number of firearms were found at a property in Bardfield Saling (Essex) - two people were arrested on suspicion of firearms and drugs offences
- Two people were arrested on suspicion of unlawful possession of a firearm after a **shotgun** was found during a raid on caravans and land in Bickington (Devon)
- Two guns have been stolen during a raid on a gun shop in Woodhall Spa (Lincolnshire) along with 400 ball-bearing (BB) pellets and around 100 CO₂ cylinders suitable for air pistols. GCN understands that the stolen guns are ball and powder weapons.
- A police firearms officer left a gun in the toilets of a coffee shop in central London. An army assault rifle was lost during an exercise on Dartmoor (Devon).
- A diver found a sawn-off **shotgun** while helping to clear rubbish from a river in Ipswich.
- **Airguns** - There were more incidents which resulted in air weapon injuries to innocent victims.
 - Another toddler was in hospital after being shot in the head with an air rifle by his father, this time in Hayes (west London) - a man was arrested on suspicion of causing actual bodily harm.
 - A 14-year-old suffered wounds to his back and bottom after being shot in Wythall (Worcestershire) by two other boys
 - A child was shot in the neck as he took part in a sponsored walk in Stonehaven (Aberdeenshire) - a fellow pupil was suspended from school
 - A man needed hospital treatment after being hit by an airgun shot in a drive-by shooting in Broxburn (West Lothian)
 - A teenager was shot in the eye at close range with an airgun in Leyland (Lancashire) - a man has been charged with possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life
 - Two men were shot at with an air rifle whilst they were at a birthday party in Weston-super-Mare (Somerset)
 - A teenage girl was shot in the head by an airgun shooter while playing on a trampoline in her back garden in Morpeth (Northumberland) - a man has been charged with assault and a woman with incitement to unlawfully wound
- A teenager was threatened with a .22 air rifle whilst being robbed of a portion of chips in Ouston (County Durham).
- A young mother and her baby were on a bus in Edinburgh when a window was shattered by what is believed to have been an airgun pellet. A bus was shot at with what is believed to have been an airgun while it was travelling along a road near Acle (Norfolk). In Fleetwood (Lancashire) two trams were targeted in airgun attacks in two days.
- An airgun pellet was fired through a window at a store in Burnham-on-Sea (Somerset), and damage estimated at £100 was caused to street lights in Meden Vale (Nottinghamshire). Four people were detained and an air rifle recovered after reports that a man had discharged a gun towards a house

in Balintore (Easter Ross). A car window was shattered at a builders' merchants in Leyland (Lancashire).

- A man was released without charge after being questioned by police following an incident in which primary school pupils were allegedly shown a gun, reported to be an air rifle, whilst visiting Willington Marina (Derbyshire).
 - **Imitation Guns** - An 11-year-old boy suffered minor injuries when he was hit in the chest by pellets from a BB gun in Alvaston (Derbyshire).
 - A patient held up an ambulance with an imitation handgun and threatened to kill its crew before taking the vehicle and crashing it into five cars in Dagenham (east London) - he has been charged with various offences including two counts of possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.
 - Train services were disrupted for three hours as police investigated a firearms incident near Rugby station (Warwickshire) in which "Heavy duty ball bearings" which had the potential to cause serious or fatal injury were fired at and damaged a lorry.
 - A man has been charged with having an imitation gun after an incident in which a teenager was threatened in Chalvey (Berkshire).
 - An imitation gun was recovered after armed police surrounded the home of a man in Stockbridge Village (Liverpool) following reports that a gunman was inside.
 - Two men sparked an armed response in Southend (Essex) when taking part in a "team-building exercise" involving imitation guns.
 - A cafe window in Paignton (Devon) has been peppered with shots, possibly from a ball bearing gun.
 - A woman was arrested for having 26 boxed replica BB guns at an outdoor market in Towyn (North Wales) during an undercover sting.
 - Travellers wearing bullet belts and imitation gun belts have been causing security problems at Edinburgh Airport.
 - **Incidents Involving Animals** - The toll of airgun abuse towards animals continues to rise, yet those with the power to act seem unwilling to take appropriate action. In September there were airgun attacks on cats in Berkshire, Bristol, Dorset, Flintshire, Gloucestershire, Lincolnshire, Kent (two incidents), Norfolk, Somerset, Sussex and West Yorkshire.
 - The police are investigating the fatal shooting of a badger found in St Ives (Cornwall).
 - A horse was killed by a single shot to the neck in a field in Godstone (Surrey).
 - Swans were shot at with a BB gun by two youngsters in Clevedon (Somerset) - one of the birds was shot in the eye and blinded. Ducks had previously been shot at the same site.
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- **Convictions** - A man who shot his 17-year-old victim in the stomach in Tottenham (north London) has been jailed for ten years after admitting grievous bodily harm with intent, possession of a firearm and possession of ammunition - the teenager was only saved by emergency surgery.
- Three teenagers have been jailed for offences committed in south-east London. A 19-year-old has admitted possessing a firearm and causing grievous bodily harm with intent for firing at a police officer in New Cross and has been ordered to serve a minimum term of eight years. Two other teenagers have been given seven and four year sentences after pointing a

converted Brocock revolver loaded with live ammunition at one of three people whom they robbed in Greenland Quay.

- Three men have been jailed for offences committed in east London. A man caught with a gas-powered gun and a knife at Dagenham Heathway station has been jailed for five years. Two men were jailed for six years and five years after an incident in Forest Gate in which a man was chased by another brandishing a sawn-off **shotgun**.
- A man from Kirkby-in-Ashfield (Nottinghamshire) has been jailed for a total of 22 years for arson, firearm and drug offences - component parts of a rifle, a sawn-off **shotgun** and ammunition were found at his home. A man from Houghton-le-Spring (County Durham) has admitted illegally possessing a handgun and drug - he will be sentenced later. A teenager was given a mandatory five year sentence after police found a **shotgun** under his bed at his home in South Shields (Tyneside).
- Four men pleaded guilty to conspiracy to rob and possession of a firearm after an attempted armed robbery at a jewellery shop in Oxted (Surrey) which was foiled by police officers at the scene - three were jailed for ten years, the fourth man for six years.
- There were two court cases involving **shotguns** in Scotland. A 16-year-old caught with a sawn-off **shotgun** in Glasgow has admitted being in possession of an offensive weapon and will be sentenced next month. A man who was offered two stolen **shotguns** to sell has pleaded guilty to resetting them and failing to have a firearms certificate.
- A man from Headley Heath (Worcestershire) was given an eight-month suspended prison sentence for keeping a pump-action **shotgun**. A 20-year-old has been found guilty of two counts of possessing a prohibited firearm and three counts of possessing ammunition without the correct authority after guns were found during a raid in Bolton (Greater Manchester) - police had been alerted by video footage on YouTube.
- A man failed to get a reduction in his ten-year sentence for possessing a gun after being convicted of possessing a revolver and ammunition in The Meadows (Nottingham). Another man had his appeal against the length of a five-year sentence dismissed: he was jailed after admitting possessing a prohibited weapon, a 12-bore **shotgun**.
- **Airguns (Court Cases)** - A number of men who used air weapons to threaten, intimidate or injure have been convicted.
 - A man who armed himself with a gas-powered air pistol and shot a man after a drunken row in Calne (Wiltshire) has been jailed for 18-months
 - A man who fired an air weapon in Ferryhill (County Durham) hitting his ex-girlfriend's boyfriend twice has been jailed for three years
 - A man has admitted brandishing an air rifle in public close to a school in Gowerton (Swansea) and will be sentenced later
 - A man has been jailed for two years after forcing a woman out of her car in Bridgham (Norfolk) by poking an air rifle through the window
 - A teenager has been given a four-month home curfew following a prank in which he terrified another young man at a campsite in Carleton (North Yorkshire) by pointing a .22 air rifle at him
 - A man from Eastbourne (Sussex) has been convicted of having a firearm with intent to cause a police officer to believe unlawful violence would be used against him after raising a .22 air rifle at officers who rushed to his house after being told he intended to kill himself
- A man who trashed his house in Swindon (Wiltshire) and assaulted his wife admitted three counts of criminal damage and was convicted of

common assault, but he was found not guilty of a firearm charge - he had been accused of pointing an air rifle at a police woman and had apparently smashed the windscreen of a police patrol car with the barrel of the gun

- **Imitation Guns (Court Cases)** - A man, one of three who burst into a home in Frankley (Birmingham) and threatened a family with a sawn-off **shotgun** whilst demanding cash, was convicted of aggravated burglary and possession of an imitation firearm. A man on day release from prison was found guilty of robbing a post office in North Newbald (East Yorkshire) whilst in possession of an imitation gun.
- A teenager who brandished a ball bearing gun that looked like an M16 assault rifle at a neighbour in Calne (Wiltshire) could face the prospect of jail.
- A woman from Gilmerton (Edinburgh) admitted possession of an offensive weapon, a replica firearm, and will be sentenced next month.
- A man who smuggled an imitation pistol into the country has been fined £500 for brandishing it during a scuffle in Newton Abbot (Devon).
- A shopkeeper from Keighley (West Yorkshire) who fired a ball-bearing gun at a boy he found stealing a chocolate bar has been given a conditional discharge for 12 months after pleading guilty to assault causing actual bodily harm.

GUN INCIDENTS – SEPTEMBER 2008

ENGLAND

Lancashire Telegraph, 30 September 2008

A gang of four men threatened the resident of a house in **Darwen**, Lancashire, and then fired a gun shot in the street. Police are investigating whether the shooting was gang motivated. Neither the gun nor a bullet has been recovered.

BBC, 30 September 2008

A masked gang robbed security guards delivering money to cash machines in **Boston**, Lincolnshire. One guard was kicked in the face and an object which may have been a gun was seen during the raid. Four cases of money were taken.

Wirral Globe, 29 September 2008

A man was shot in the leg in **Birkenhead** in another 'targeted shooting' in Merseyside. He was taken to hospital where his condition is not thought to be life threatening.

News Shopper, 29 September 2008

Rohan Smith, Stephen Noel, Darren Welch and Lloyd Brook all pleaded guilty to conspiracy to rob and possession of a firearm after an attempted armed robbery at a jewellery shop in **Oxted**, Surrey, in April 2008. They threatened workers with a handgun but were thwarted by police officers at the scene. Noel was given six years for conspiracy to rob, with three years for possession of a firearm to run concurrently, the others all received 10 year and four year sentences to run concurrently.

Kent Online, 29 September 2008

Armed police went to a property in **Chatham**, Kent, after reports that a man at the house had been spotted with a firearm.

BBC, 29 September 2008

A man has been taken to hospital with serious head injuries after a shooting in **Wickham Skieth**, Suffolk. A man from the village has been arrested on suspicion of offences under the Firearms Act.

BBC, 29 September 2008

Three people, two men and a woman, were taken to hospital following a shooting at a club in **Bilston**, West Midlands. One man was released from hospital after treatment, the other two victims are in a stable condition.

Lancashire Evening Post, 27 September 2008

A car window was targeted in a suspected shooting incident at a builders' merchants in **Leyland**, Lancashire. It appears that an **air rifle** had been fired and caused the window to shatter.

BBC, 27 September 2008

A man was shot in the leg in what police say was a "targeted" shooting in **Croxteth**, Liverpool. He was taken to hospital but his injuries are not thought to be life threatening.

BBC, 27 September 2008

Two security van guards were threatened by a man with a gun at a supermarket in **Windsor**, Berkshire. He forced them to hand over a cashbox and was driven off in a waiting car. No-one was injured.

BBC, 27 September 2008

A 19-year-old was being treated in hospital for a groin wound after a shooting at a nightclub in **Stokes Croft**, Bristol.

Gazette (Blackpool), 26 September 2008

There have been two **airgun** attacks on seafront trams in **Fleetwood**, Lancashire, in less than a week. In the latest a passenger was showered with broken glass and many passengers were left "cowering in fear". Two days earlier another tram had been targeted and a door was damaged. This follows two earlier attacks on trams in **Rossall** in July (see [Incidents](#)).

BBC, 26 September 2008

Brett Dolan, 18, has been jailed for five years after police found a sawn off shotgun during a search at his home in **South Shields**, Tyneside, in June 2008. The weapon was hidden under his bed. The sentence was the mandatory minimum for possession of a prohibited weapon and the judge said he could not find in this case the type of exceptional circumstances required to stray from imposing the minimum term (*Northern Echo*, 26 September 2008).

BBC, 26 September 2008

An SA80 assault rifle was lost during an army training exercise on **Dartmoor**, Devon. A radio was also missing. A military police investigation is under way.

Press Association, 26 September 2008

A man was arrested after a police car was blasted with a shotgun as officers followed a stolen vehicle in **Salford**, Greater Manchester. The pursuit ended with a gunman forcing his way into a house where he was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder. A shotgun was recovered.

Evening Telegraph (Derby), 25 September 2008

A man was arrested after primary school pupils were shown a gun whilst they were visiting **Willington Marina**, Derbyshire. He was arrested on suspicion of possession of an **air rifle**, but was released without charge after being questioned by police.

Evening Standard, 25 September 2008

A patient held up an ambulance at gunpoint and threatened to kill its crew before taking the vehicle and crashing it into five cars. He pulled an **imitation handgun** on the crew as they were transferring him from his home in **Dagenham**, east London, to hospital in Romford. The problem may have been sparked by the patient's unhappiness at the choice of hospital. A man has been charged with two counts of possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, making threats to kill, aggravated vehicle taking, using a motor vehicle without insurance and driving otherwise than in accordance with the licence.

BBC, 25 September 2008

A man has been seriously injured in a shooting in **Stockport**, Greater Manchester. He needed emergency treatment for gunshot wounds to his chest and leg and was described as being in a poorly condition in hospital. A man has been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit murder (*BBC*, 29 September 2008).

BBC, 25 September 2008

Train services were disrupted as police investigated a firearms incident near **Rugby** station, Warwickshire. "Heavy duty **ball bearings**" which had the potential to cause serious or fatal injury were fired at a lorry which was damaged. No-one was hurt in the incident, but trains were suspended for more than three hours.

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 24 September 2008

A man wanted by police in **Northamptonshire** for the past nine years has been sentenced in his absence. Erich Ryan failed to turn up at court in December 1999 to be sentenced for theft and possession of an **airgun**. He is now subject to a 12-month conditional discharge.

Horncastle News, 24 September 2008

Two guns have been stolen during a raid on a gun shop in **Woodhall Spa**, Lincolnshire. The weapons taken were Pietta 44 calibre and Eurolion (a **Colt 45 replica**) revolvers. The guns were removed from a safe, along with some cash. Around 35 tubs and tubes containing 400 **ball-bearing (BB) pellets** were also stolen along with around 100 CO₂ cylinders suitable for air pistols.

Express & Star, 24 September 2008

A court has heard that a loaded 9 mm pistol was among items discovered at a house in **Bushbury**, Wolverhampton, being used as the headquarters of a heroin and cocaine dealing enterprise. The gun was found during a raid in July 2007. One man who lived at the house denies two counts of possessing drugs with intent to supply, a second man has pleaded guilty to the same charges, but pleads guilty to converting criminal property. His grandmother denies possession of criminal property. The two men deny possession of a firearm, ammunition and criminal property, relating to cash that was found. The trial continues.

Evening Chronicle, 24 September 2008

A teenage girl is recovering after she was shot in the head by an **airgun** shooter while playing on a trampoline in her back garden in **Morpeth**, Northumberland. A man has been charged with assault and a woman with incitement to unlawfully wound.

BBC, 24 September 2008

A man has been taken to hospital after a shooting in **Harehills**, Leeds. The victim is understood to have been shot in the chest but his injuries are not thought to be life-threatening.

Evening Courier, 23 September 2008

A man threatened a woman shop worker with a gun during an armed robbery in **Buttershaw**, West Yorkshire. He is believed to have been carrying a silver handgun. The suspect left empty-handed after she woman and a colleague refused to hand over any money.

BBC, 23 September 2008

Graham Calvert of **Houghton-le-Spring**, County Durham, has admitted illegally possessing a handgun and possessing cocaine. He will be sentenced next month.

Weston & Somerset Mercury, 22 September 2008

Two men were shot with pellets from an **air rifle** at a friend's birthday party at a social club in **Weston-super-Mare**. Both were treated at the scene but agree they were lucky to escape with superficial injuries and that none of the 20 children present were shot. About seven pellets were found on the floor.

Telegraph, 22 September 2008

Michael Diamantis pulled a handgun on his 17-year-old victim and shot him in the stomach when a chance meeting turned into a bitter row in **Tottenham**, north London, in August 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). The bullet passed through the victim's arm, shredded his spleen and he was only saved and an emergency operation to remove the damaged organ. Diamantis was caught after people at the mosque to which he escaped were concerned about his agitated manner. He admitted grievous bodily harm with intent, possession of a firearm and possession of ammunition and was jailed for a total of ten years. His girlfriend Monica Conceicao was given a suspended jail sentence after hiding the gun under a bed.

BBC, 22 September 2008

A teenager was shot in the eye at close range with an **airgun** in **Leyland**, Lancashire. He remains in a stable condition in hospital. A 20-year-old is due to appear in court. He has been charged with possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life, wounding and offering to supply drugs.

The Argus (Brighton), 22 September 2008

A man preparing to hang himself was arrested after he raised a **.22 air rifle** when officers rushed to his house in **Eastbourne**, Sussex, having been told he intended to kill himself. He shouted at them to 'Get out of my house' before appearing with the gun. John Potter has been convicted of having a firearm with intent to cause a police officer to believe unlawful violence would be used against him and has been warned he faces a jail sentence (*Bexhill-on-Sea Observer*, 30 September 2008).

BBC, 21 September 2008

A man has died in hospital and his wife left with gunshot wounds following a double shooting at their home in **Porth Kea**, Cornwall. A man, believed to be the former boyfriend of the couple's daughter, has been arrested and taken to hospital with self-inflicted injuries, apparently after shooting himself with a .22 rifle (*Times*, 22 September 2008). A firearm believed to have been used in the shootings has been recovered. It has been revealed that the suspect is a former RAF serviceman who had been sacked from the family business. The weapon used was apparently a high-velocity hunting rifle (*Mail*, 23 September 2008).

Northern Echo, 20 September 2008

Steven Ferguson terrified an ex-girlfriend and twice fired an air weapon at her new boyfriend. He entered her home in **Ferryhill**, County Durham, in May 2008, and refused to leave. He then picked up a **.22 air rifle** he had left near the door and fired a pellet into her boyfriend's leg and then again as she was phoning the police. Further shots were fired by Ferguson. He admitted two counts of possessing a firearm with intent to cause a fear of violence and one of possessing a firearm when prohibited. He has been jailed for three years and the weapon, which he had been using to shoot stones, must be forfeited and destroyed.

This is Wiltshire, 19 September 2008

Adam Salsbury, 19, armed himself with his gas-powered **air pistol** and shot a man after a drunken row over a girl. He sent text messages telling his friend 'You're dead' and burst into his friend's home in **Calne**, Wiltshire, and started firing the gun. He shot a man in the chest and was still shooting as he left the scene. The incident took place on New Year's Day. Salsbury pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, common assault, actual bodily harm and criminal damage. He has been jailed for 18 months.

This is South Devon, 19 September 2008

A shotgun was among items seized by police during a morning raid on caravans and land in **Bickington**, Devon. The raid was prompted by intelligence indicating stolen goods may have been kept there. A man was being questioned by officers after being arrested on suspicion of unlawful possession of a firearm.

Newbury Weekly News, 19 September 2008

When three men were approached by a security guard after he spotted them trespassing on private land in **Tadley**, Hampshire, one of them threatened him with a handgun. Detectives have released e-fit images of men they would like to speak to.

BBC, 19 September 2008

A man has been arrested in connection with an incident in **St Ann's**, Nottingham, in which a firearm was reported to have been discharged. There were no reports that anyone was injured.

BBC, 19 September 2008

A man was attacked with a stun gun during a robbery outside a pub in **Kings Langley**, Hertfordshire, when his car and cash were stolen by a man who got into the passenger seat.

BBC, 19 September 2008

Forty people have been arrested in **Knowsley**, Merseyside, as part of a crackdown on gun crime, violence and anti-social behaviour.

Lancashire Evening Post, 18 September 2008

Two teenagers have been attacked in a suspected gunpoint robbery in **Deepdale**, Preston. Police believe the same men could be responsible for various incidents in the area in recent weeks. During the incident one victim was shown a black object inside one of the robbers' jacket which he believed to be a gun.

BBC, 18 September 2008

Two people, a man and a woman, have been arrested on suspicion of firearms and drugs offences after a police search of a property in **Bardfield Saling**, Essex. A number of firearms were found.

This is Derbyshire, 17 September 2008

An 11-year-old boy suffered minor injuries when he was hit in the chest by pellets from a **BB gun** in a street in **Alvaston**, Derbyshire. The gun was seized and a 14-year-old boy was arrested and then released on police bail.

Swindon Advertiser, 17 September 2008

Mark Parker has had his appeal against the length of his 5-year jail sentence dismissed. He was sentenced after admitting possessing a prohibited weapon which he claimed to have acquired to 'spite his ex-wife and to assert his new-found independence'. Parker, an airman from RAF **Lyneham**, Wiltshire, had bought a 12-bore shotgun and cartridges as a 'trophy' following a tour of duty in Iraq.

Royston Crow, 17 September 2008

An inquest has opened into the death of a man who died following a gunshot wound to the head. He was found at his home in **Arrington**, Cambridgeshire.

BBC, 17 September 2008

Three masked men armed with a shotgun and a lump hammer raided a garage and threatened staff in **West Timperley**, Greater Manchester. They intimidated staff and security guards who were collecting cash before stealing cigarettes.

This is Wiltshire, 16 September 2008

Kevin Major, who collects airguns and crossbows, trashed his house in **Penhill, Swindon**, and assaulted his wife, and was also accused of pointing an **air rifle** at a police woman in January 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He apparently smashed the windscreen of a police patrol car with the barrel of the gun. He admitted three counts of criminal damage but denied possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and common assault on his wife. The jury found him not guilty of the firearm charge but convicted him of common assault (*Swindon Advertiser*, 18 September 2008).

This is Nottingham, 16 September 2008

John Tattersall from **Kirkby-in-Ashfield** has been jailed for a total of 22 years for arson, firearm and drugs supply charges, the sentences to run concurrently. He surrendered to police in February 2008. All the component parts of a .22 rifle, with the butt, barrel and stock sawn off, a sawn-off shotgun and a substantial amount of ammunition were found at his home.

This is Exeter, 16 September 2008

A man who smuggled an **imitation pistol** into the country has been fined £500 for brandishing it during a late-night street scuffle in **Newton Abbot**, Devon (see [Incidents](#)). The recorder agreed with his claim that he had used the weapon in defence of himself or his girlfriend. Nikolajus Cerenievas brought the 9mm self-loading blank-firing pistol in his case from Russia. See [August 2008 Incidents](#).

Telegraph & Argus, 16 September 2008

David Pringle, 19, has been given a four-month home curfew following a late-night gun "prank" at a campsite in **Carleton**, North Yorkshire, in June 2008. He dressed up in combat-style clothing and was carrying a friend's .22 **air rifle** when he confronted another young man, pointing the gun at him and swearing at him numerous times. The complainant was terrified.

Newham Recorder, 16 September 2008

Mohammed Janab has been jailed for six years after chasing another man out of a petrol station forecourt in **Forest Gate**, east London, brandishing a sawn-off shotgun. The incident followed a fight in April 2008. Janab was convicted after pleading not guilty. Ismail Nazir who was with him at the time pleaded guilty to possession of a shotgun and was jailed for five years.

Hemel Today, 16 September 2008

A security guard has been left fighting for his life after being shot during an armed raid at a supermarket in **Tring**, Hertfordshire. A shopper who tried to intervene was also shot. He is being treated in hospital and his injuries are not believed to be life threatening.

BBC, 16 September 2008

Three armed raiders forced a security van guard to lie on the floor while another pointed a gun at his colleague's head during a raid at a building society branch in **Andover**, Hampshire. The men snatched a cash box. The guards were not harmed or injured but were shaken by the incident.

BBC, 16 September 2008

Armed robbers attacked a man with a stun gun after they forced their way into his home in **Prestwich**, Manchester. They also used CS spray. The two teenage robbers stole two computers, a phone and cash in the raid.

BBC, 16 September 2008

Two men, including a former Metropolitan Police officer, have been charged over a robbery at a betting shop in **Ilford**, east London. A staff member was threatened with a gun.

BBC, 16 September 2008

A man has been arrested following a shooting at a pub in **Chapel House**, Newcastle, a few days earlier. The victim was treated for a gunshot wound to the lower stomach and is recovering well.

West Sussex Gazette, 15 September 2008

The body of the landlord of a pub in **Fernhurst**, Sussex, was discovered in a room at the pub when staff arrived to open the pub. It appears he had taken his own life using a shotgun.

This is Wiltshire, 15 September 2008

Lewis Sanders, 18, brandished a **ball bearing gun** fashioned like an M16 assault rifle at a neighbour in **Calne** in June 2008. He pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and could face the prospect of a jail term.

BBC, 15 September 2008

A man has been charged with having an **imitation firearm** with intent to commit an offence and with possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after a teenager was threatened with a handgun in **Chalvey**, Berkshire, in July.

Sunday Express, 14 September 2008

Cecil Stephens carried out a raid at a post office in **North Newbald**, East Yorkshire, whilst on day release from a semi-open prison in December 2007. He bludgeoned the postmaster but left empty handed. He has been found guilty of attempted robbery and possessing an **imitation firearm**. His girlfriend Doreen Cramman was found guilty of attempted robbery as his getaway driver. They will be sentenced later.

The Journal, 14 September 2008

A teenager was threatened and had a .22 calibre **air rifle** thrust into his face when he was robbed for a portion of chip in **Ouston**, County Durham.

The Star, 13 September 2008

A masked man armed with a shotgun burst into a bookmakers in **Barnsley**, South Yorkshire, and demanded cash. He got away with just over £100.

Bolton News, 13 September 2008

Anthony Horrocks, 20, has been found guilty of two counts of possessing a prohibited firearm and three counts of possessing ammunition without the correct authority. The guns were found during a raid on a house in **Halliwell**, Bolton, where he was living. The police were alerted to him after video footage was uploaded to his YouTube site in which he claimed he filmed himself loading a handgun.

BBC, 13 September 2008

A man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after another man was shot in the leg in **Tipton**, West Midlands. The victim was taken to hospital where his condition was described as stable.

Newbury Today, 12 September 2008

A loaded gun and more than £40,000 in cash was found by police in a raid on an illegal waste operator in **Aldermaston**, Berkshire. Four men were arrested, two of whom have been charged with firearms offences.

BBC, 12 September 2008

Two men armed with a small handgun stole cash boxes after threatening a security guard at a shop in **Rusthall**, Kent. No-one was injured.

BBC, 12 September 2008

A man was threatened with a shotgun during a carjacking in **Norris Green**, Liverpool. He was driving a van when a man flagged him down and then threatened him. Five men surrounded the driver's side and attacked him. The victim suffered minor injuries.

Gazette, 11 September 2008

Jonathan Ewing, who fired an **airgun** at two brothers in **Colchester**, Essex, in August 2007, has been jailed for six years. One victim was shot at 34 times and still has pellets in his head. His younger brother who was aged 13 was also shot in the head, and both victims were pistol-whipped. Ewing had gone to their house to collect a debt which was nothing to do with the brothers and had been taking a cocktail of drugs and alcohol.

BBC, 11 September 2008

A man was arrested under the Firearms Act after a three-hour siege in **Liskeard**, Cornwall. Police were called after reports of a man with a knife and a handgun threatening to harm himself.

BBC, 11 September 2008

Two self-loading pistols were recovered from a property in **Moss Side**, Manchester, when police executed a search warrant. Two women and a man were arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm.

This is South Devon, 10 September 2008

A window of a cafe on **Paignton** Pier has been peppered with seven shots, possibly from a **ball bearing gun**.

Southwark News, 9 September 2008

Two teenagers, both aged 17, who mugged three people at gunpoint in **Greenland Quay**, south-east London, in September 2007 have been given sentences of seven years (after pleading guilty to robbery and possessing a firearm) and four years (after pleading guilty to robbery and a possession of a prohibited weapon). They pointed a converted Brocock revolver loaded with live ammunition at the chest of one of the victims before stealing a small sports bag and a mobile phone.

Loughborough News, 9 September 2008

A major investigation has been launched by police after a firearm was discharged in **Wigston Fields**, Leicester. A number of shots were fired following an altercation between the residents of a house and a number of people who had arrived at the address. A number of cartridges have been recovered. Four people have been arrested (*BBC*, 9 September 2008).

Chad (Mansfield), 9 September 2008

Damage estimated at £1000 was caused when an **airgun** was fired at street lights in **Meden Vale**, Nottinghamshire.

BBC, 9 September 2008

Staff at a shop in **Cheadle Hulme**, Greater Manchester, were threatened with a gun and an axe during an armed robbery. Two men ordered them to get on the floor and stole cash and cigarettes.

BBC, 9 September 2008

An elderly woman has been robbed at gunpoint by two men as she was walking along a street in **Norris Green**, Liverpool. One man threatened her with what is believed to be a handgun and grabbed at her handbag, knocking her to the ground.

Guardian (Epping Forest, Waltham Forest, Wanstead & Woodford), 8 September 2008

A doorman at a nightclub in **South Woodford** (north-east London) suffered a bullet wound to the leg when a gunman opened fire on him. He had been approached by two men, aged between 18 and 20, with scarves and hoods.

BBC, 8 September 2008

Two men sparked an armed response in **Southend**, Essex, when they were seen carrying guns and dressed in dark clothing as they were entering an office block. Worried members of the public dialled 999 and police surrounded the building. The men who were armed with **imitation guns** were involved in an "organised activity", part of a team-building exercise. They were "offered suitable words of advice" by police.

Evening Star, 7 September 2008

A diver found a sawn-off shotgun while he was helping to clear rubbish from the River Gipping in **Ipswich**. The gun was discovered in a rusty condition in some mud.

Worcester News, 6 September 2008

Patrick Gaffiero from **Headley Heath**, Worcestershire, has been given an eight-month suspended prison sentence for keeping a pump-action shotgun. He had admitted keeping the gun without a licence and possessing a stun gun. He has been sentenced to 180 hours of unpaid work and made the subject of a two-year supervision requirement.

Liverpool Echo, 6 September 2008

Five people were arrested in police raids after a number of incidents across **Knowsley**. In two of the incidents a shot was fired through the windscreen of a taxi and two men on a motorcycle opened fire into the air.

Burnham-On-Sea.com, 6 September 2008

An **airgun** pellet was fired through a window at a store in **Burnham-On-Sea**, Somerset. The supermarket have played it down saying it was a very minor incident.

BBC, 6 September 2008

A man has been taken to hospital after he was shot in the back in **Newtown**, Birmingham. His condition was described as serious but not life threatening.

This is Croydon, 5 September 2008

A man has described how he escaped with his life after being shot in the head at his home in **Addiscombe**, south London, last month. The bullet ricocheted off his skull when he ducked as one of two attackers pulled the trigger on the gun.

Lynn News, 5 September 2008

Tom Smith was released by police after driving at pedestrians, being involved in a high-speed chase and ranting about terrorists in January 2008, but the next day he forced a woman out of her car in **Bridgham**, Norfolk, by poking an **air rifle** through the window. He got into the car and accelerated it towards her. The victim still suffers from the effects of the ordeal. Smith, who was described as delusional, has now been jailed for two years.

Norwich Evening News, 5 September 2008

In the latest of a spate of airgun shootings in the Norwich area a bus was shot at with what is believed to have been an **airgun** while travelling along the **Acle** straight. Although the bus window did not smash, there were two small holes in it and two pellets were found in the vehicle.

Daily Mail, 5 September 2008

A toddler was in hospital after being shot in the head with an **air rifle** by his father in **Hayes**, west London. The 2-year-old boy is believed to have been hit while playing in the family's garden as he ran out in front of his father, who was shooting targets. A man has been arrested on suspicion of causing actual bodily harm. The boy was in a 'stable but non-life threatening' condition.

Evening Courier, 4 September 2008

Three men have been arrested after brandishing a sawn-off shotgun outside a pub in **Elland**, West Yorkshire. They were arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm. Police were unable to confirm if the gun was used at this stage. Two men have not been charged with firearms offences and a third man is due to appear in court charged with possessing a firearm (*Evening Courier*, 8 September 2008).

Echo (Essex), 4 September 2008

Four residents of **Westcliff** were robbed at gunpoint during a series of crimes. Tobacco was taken from one victim and a suitcase full of women's handbags from another. A teenager has been arrested on suspicion of a public order offence and robbery.

BBC, 4 September 2008

A police firearms officer left a gun in the toilets of a coffee shop in **central London**. It was found by a member of the public. The female officer concerned has now been removed from operational duties.

This is Nottingham, 3 September 2008

Makan Martin Dayll has lost his bid to get a reduction in his ten-year sentence for possessing a gun. He was convicted of possessing a revolver and ammunition in February 2008 after being stopped by armed police in **The Meadows**, Nottingham, in August 2007 and found to have a loaded .45 calibre revolver stashed in a bin liner.

Telegraph, 3 September 2008

A group of men are accused of holding two other men hostage at an address in **Thamesmead**, south east London, and demanding a ransom of £75,000 after they abducted them at gunpoint from a sports store in **West London** and bundled them into a car. The victims were kept in a car boot for six days before being rescued by police.

Press Association, 3 September 2008

Dwayne Dinnall was caught as he tried to leave **Dagenham Heathway** station, east London, in June (see [Incidents](#)) with a gas-powered gun and a seven-inch kitchen knife in his bag. He had previous convictions for possession of guns and knives and pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm. He has been jailed for five years.

Lancashire Telegraph, 3 September 2008

Police found a loaded shotgun in the front garden of a house in **Chorley**, Lancashire, after an anonymous tip-off. They arrested a man and a woman, who lived at the house, and another man, but were all released on bail pending examination of the weapon.

Lancashire Telegraph, 3 September 2008

A man who allegedly brandished a handgun after a late night party in **Waterfoot**, Lancashire, is being sought by police. Police are unsure whether the gun was real or not. No-one was injured but a number of vehicles and a house window were broken, although no shots were fired.

Bromsgrove Standard, 3 September 2008

Daniel Simon was one of three men who burst into a home in **Frankley**, Birmingham, in January 2008, threatened a family with a sawn-off shotgun and demanded cash. He was convicted of aggravated burglary for which he was given nine years in jail, and possession of an **imitation firearm** for which he was given a six-year term to run concurrently. The robbers had escaped with valuable items including a flat screen TV.

Birmingham Mail, 3 September 2008

Police recovered a loaded pistol from a house in **Handsworth**, Birmingham. A stun gun was also found. A man was arrested and taken into custody.

Wirral Globe, 2 September 2008

Police recovered a single-barrelled shotgun during a search of a house in **Birkenhead**. A woman and four men have been arrested on suspicion of firearms offences.

Telegraph & Argus, 2 September 2008

A shopkeeper fired a **ball bearing gun** at a boy as the youngster ran off with a chocolate bar from the shop in **Keighley**, West Yorkshire. He pleaded guilty to assault causing actual bodily harm and was given a conditional discharge for 12 months, fined £250 and order to pay £100 compensation to his victim.

London Informer, 2 September 2008

A man was robbed at gunpoint in **Earl's Court**, west London, on his way to a takeaway. The robber asked for money and the victim's phone.

Liverpool Echo, 2 September 2008

Armed police surrounded the home of a man in his 80s in **Stockbridge Village**, Liverpool, for five hours after reports that a gunman was inside. An **imitation gun** was recovered. It is believed that the gunman had fled the property before police arrived.

BBC, 2 September 2008

Detectives investigating three deaths at a burnt out house in **Maesbrook**, Shropshire, (see [August 2008 Incidents](#)) have now said that they believe that his wife and daughter were killed by Christopher Foster who then killed himself. His wife is known to have died from a gunshot wound to the head and his legally-owned rifle was found close the remains of his and his wife's body. CCTV has revealed a man "clearly believed to be Foster" walking around with what appears to be a rifle in his hands. He was seen to shoot out two of the tyres of a horsebox used to block the main gates to the premises. Previous reports described Foster as a weekly regular at Shropshire Clay Pigeon Shooting Association who took up country pursuits such as shooting (BBC, 28 August 2008).

BBC, 2 September 2008

A man has died four weeks after being found with a gunshot wound following a drive-by shooting in **Ladywood Middleway**, Birmingham (see [August 2008 Incidents](#)).

This is Nottingham, 1 September 2008

A man armed with a handgun forced staff at a bookmakers in **Heanor** to hand over cash.

Bromsgrove Standard, 1 September 2008

A teenager suffered wounds to his back and bottom after being shot with an **air rifle** or **BB gun** in **Wythall**, Worcestershire. The 14-year-old was targeted by two other boys as he was walking in the street.

BBC, 1 September 2008

Nineteen-year-old Joel Johnson has admitted possessing a firearm and causing grievous bodily harm with intent for firing at a police officer during an operation in **New Cross**, south-east London, in December 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). The officer sustained an injury to his hand. He was ordered to serve a minimum term of eight years.

SCOTLAND

Press & Journal, 25 September 2008

Armed police officers swooped on **Balintore**, Easter Ross, after receiving reports that a man had discharged what is believed to be an **air rifle** towards a house. By the time they arrived at the scene a teenager, believed to have been in possession of a gun, had fled the scene but was found later. Police have detained four people and recovered an air rifle.

BBC, 24 September 2008

A gun has been fired outside a bar in **Broomhouse**, Edinburgh. Police investigating the incident say it may be linked to an earlier shotgun attack on a taxi (see below). Two men have been arrested (*BBC*, 28 September 2008).

Evening Express, 23 September 2008

More than 200 **airguns** have been handed in to **Grampian** Police since the start of 2007. They were among 840 firearms given up.

Evening News, 18 September 2008

A man needed hospital treatment after being shot with an **airgun** in a drive by shooting in **Broxburn**, West Lothian.

BBC, 17 September 2008

Joseph Carragher was offered two stolen shotguns by a stranger in **Inverness** who approached him asking for drugs and then asked him to find a buyer for the weapons. The guns had been taken during a break-in at a house. He pleaded guilty to resetting two shotguns and failing to have a firearms certificate. He will be sentenced next month.

BBC, 15 September 2008

Fashionable bullet belts and **imitation gun** belts are among items causing security problems at **Edinburgh Airport**. The police are calling for common sense to come before fashion sense. Belt buckles in the shape of guns are banned at the airport.

BBC, 15 September 2008

A shotgun was fired at the rear of a taxi in **Granton**, Edinburgh. The vehicle was extensively damaged. Initially there was no indication as to the motivation behind the attack.

Evening Times, 12 September 2008

A 16-year-old was caught with a sawn-off shotgun in **Glasgow's East End** during an incident in January 2008. Billy Gibson was seen throwing the gun away on CCTV. He has admitted being in possession of an offensive weapon and will be sentenced next month.

Scotsman, 11 September 2008

A young mother and her baby were sitting next the window of a bus when it came under suspected gunfire in **Edinburgh**. The window was shattered by what she believes was an **airgun** pellet. Other passengers reported seeing one or two people running away.

Press & Journal, 10 September 2008

A child was shot in the neck by an **airgun** pellet as he took part in a **Stonehaven** school's sponsored walk. A fifth-year pupil caught carrying the weapon was immediately apprehended by staff and is now suspended from the school. The injured pupil was treated by a member of staff.

Evening Times, 8 September 2008

The paper has obtained information about four separate gun-related crimes involving children which took place in **Strathclyde** in the first three months of this year. An eight-year-old boy was caught carrying a gun by police and reported for a firearms offence. Two **Glasgow** youths were reported for possessing a firearm with the intent to endanger life and a 15-year-old boy was reported for the same offence in **Lanarkshire**.

BBC, 5 September 2008

A female staff member was threatened with a gun during an attempted robbery at a bank in **Dundee**. No-one was injured and nothing was stolen.

Evening News (Edinburgh), 4 September 2008

Natalie Hendry of **Gilmerton** has admitted possession of an offensive weapon, a **replica firearm**. Police involved in investigating a disturbance over a drug deal found her hiding in a stairwell of a block of flats and when they search her they found the gun, a metal pole and a dart. She claimed she had been given them to hold by a man. She will be sentenced next month.

Daily Record, 3 September 2008

A fatal accident inquiry has heard that a gunman died after being disarmed by two off-duty policemen in a working men's club in **Kirkintilloch**, East Dunbartonshire, in April 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). Walter Sample was later discovered to have been carrying an **imitation firearm**. The inquiry continues.

WALES

This is South Wales, 16 September 2008

A man has admitted brandishing an **air rifle** in public as dozens of pupils made their way to school in **Gowerton** in June 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). Dean Barratt admitted possessing an air rifle with intention of causing people to fear unlawful violence would be used. A teenager was formally found not guilty. The men had been camping in a tent on parkland close to the school. Sentencing was adjourned.

Wales Online, 9 September 2008

A man was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm after someone was apparently spotted waving a gun out of the window of a car at **Rhigos Mountain** near Aberdare.

Daily Post, 3 September 2008

Replica guns and **air weapons** were among items seized in an undercover sting on an outdoor market in **Towyn**, North Wales. One woman was arrested for having 26 boxed replica BB guns.

Wales Online, 1 September 2008

The Independent Police Complaints Commission has found no criminal or conduct issues following an investigation into the shooting by Gwent Police of Brinley Watkins. Watkins was shot following a siege at his house in **Rassau**, Ebbw Vale, in June 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). Officers had been called to the scene after Watkins had told a 999 operator he had a .48 calibre gun and a shotgun. He pointed a gun at police and later ran out the house with the weapon which was in fact a faulty **airgun**. A marksman fired a single bullet into his abdomen. He underwent lifesaving surgery and was later jailed for two years after pleading guilty to two counts of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. For more details see [November 2007 Incidents](#).

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Weston & Somerset Mercury, 30 September 2008

Two youngsters aged 11-12 were seen shooting at swans with **BB guns** in **Clevedon**, Somerset. One of the birds had been shot in the eye and blinded. The previous week two ducks were shot and had to be put out of their misery.

Kent Online, 29 September 2008

A cat in **Maidstone**, Kent, has been shot with an **air rifle**. A vet's X-ray revealed a pellet embedded in his hind leg.

BBC, 29 September 2008

A horse is believed to have been shot dead in a field in **Godstone**, Surrey. It appeared to have received a single shot to the neck. The incident has been described as a "wanton act of animal cruelty".

BBC, 26 September 2008

A dead badger was found in the Towednack area of **St Ives**, Cornwall. A bullet was recovered during a post-mortem examination and police are investigating. It is a criminal offence to wilfully kill a badger.

Daily Echo, 17 September 2008

A pet owner from **Christchurch**, Dorset, has spoken of her horror at seeing her cat covered in blood after he was shot with an **air rifle**. The cat will have to live with a pellet inside him.

Bracknell Forest Standard, 16 September 2008

A kitten is starting to make a recovery after being shot twice with an **airgun** in **Sandhurst**, Berkshire, last month. His owners have had to spend almost £1500 on treatment.

Daily Post, 13 September 2008

A cat was in intensive care after being shot with an **airgun** in **Panycae**, near Wrexham. The pellet punctured her intestine.

Bognor Regis Observer, 12 September 2008

An **airgun** pellet partially blinded a cat when she was shot in the head in **Felpham** in Bognor Regis, Sussex.

Skegness Standard, 11 September 2008

A cat had to be put down after it was shot with an **air rifle** in **Old Bolingbroke**, Lincolnshire. The pet was found by its owner with a severe injury to its back and a pellet was lodged in the spine.

Norwich Evening News, 5 September 2008

A cat is unlikely to fully recover despite have two major operations and skin grafts after being found near its home in **Hellesdon**, Norwich, with wounds in his side, presumably due to an **airgun** pellet.

Todmorden News, 4 September 2008

A pet cat was shot and left seriously injured by an **airgun** pellet. The cat was found in the street in **Todmorden**, West Yorkshire, suffering a potentially fatal injury to his bladder. His owner has warned other pet owners in Calderdale and told anyone with airguns that they needed to know that their actions could prove fatal to pets.

This is Bristol, 4 September 2008

A cat's life was saved by vets after it was seriously injured when shot with an **airgun** in **Bradley Stoke**, Bristol. The vet found an airgun pellet embedded in his chest and the cat had also suffered injuries to his diaphragm, liver and gall bladder.

Somerset County Gazette, 4 September 2008

A pet owner from **Creech St Michael**, Somerset, who found a lump in her cat's neck discovered, on taking him to the vet, that it was an **airgun pellet**. The pellet was dangerously close to a main artery and the cat required surgery to remove it.

Citizen (Gloucestershire), 4 September 2008

A cat has had to undergo major surgery to her leg after being shot with an **airgun** near her home in **Tuffley**, Gloucester.

News Shopper, 2 September 2008

One cat had to be put down and two others sustained serious injuries after being shot with **air rifles** in **Northfleet**, Kent. Their owner say she knows of two other cats that have been shot in the area.

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