

## **SEPTEMBER 2009 - SUMMARY**

**For the second month running and for the third time this year a boy has been killed after being shot with an air weapon. The death of the 10-year-old from Swansea was described as another "tragic accident" but provided another awful reminder of the lethality of airguns. Yet these weapons continue to be treated in a way which is far too casual for something so dangerous. They are not being stored properly, they are not being kept out of the hands of unsupervised youngsters and they are not being kept away from those who would use them to cause harm. It is a situation which makes it too easy for a group of teenagers to fire an air rifle at a group of toddlers at a birthday party, as happened in Melton Mowbray this month, for a mother and her baby to be showered with glass on a bus in Milton Keynes, for three other people to be randomly targeted by airgun snipers and for attacks on family pets and protected birds to continue to occur all too frequently. The incidents reported this month emphasise once again the need for a registration system in which ownership would be limited to those with a genuine need to have an airgun with an obligation to store the weapons appropriately and prevent their misuse in the type of incident reported in these summaries every month.**

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - There were eight fatal shooting incidents in September. All of the victims were male.
- Six of the shootings were apparent homicides which occurred in:
  - Bedfordshire - a man was shot in a street in Luton (a 17-year-old has been charged with murder)
  - Derbyshire - a taxi driver found dead in the boot of his vehicle had been beaten and shot (a man has been charged with murder)
  - Greater Manchester - a man was shot on his doorstep in Oldham (two brothers have been charged with murder)
  - London - a man was shot dead at a house in West Norwood (south London), and another victim died after being shot in the street in Hackney (east London) (two teenagers have been accused of murder)
  - West Yorkshire - a man was shot dead in a lay-by in Clayton West (Huddersfield) (one man has been arrested).
- A man apparently shot and killed himself with a revolver after walking into a pub in Fazakerley (Liverpool).
- A 10-year-old from Swansea died when he was shot with an airgun, reported to be his father's air pistol, whilst playing with another boy.
- An inquest heard how a woman from Malvern (Worcestershire) purchased an air rifle the day before she shot herself dead with the weapon at her home in May - a verdict of suicide was recorded.
- A number of other victims were injured in shooting attacks. These occurred mostly in London and the West Midlands, and the number of incidents in South London, particularly in the Wandsworth area, and Birmingham must be of particular concern.
  - Berkshire (1) - a man was shot four times at a mobile home park in Crowthorne (a man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder)
  - Glasgow (2) - a man was seriously injured and his partner sustained minor injuries in a shooting in Pollok in which the victim's dog was killed
  - North London (7) - five teenagers suffered gunshot wounds in an incident in Tottenham (five people including one of the victims were detained), and

two men, one a teenager, were shot in separate incidents in the same street in Leyton

- South London (9) - a man was shot twice in the leg in Roehampton, two men were shot in Battersea in possibly linked incidents (five youths have been arrested), a man was shot in the shoulder in Southfields, another victim was shot in the leg in Tooting, two teenage boys, aged 15 and 16, were shot with a shotgun in Wandsworth (the younger boy was in a serious condition after being hit in the back), a shop worker was critically injured when he was shot during a robbery in Croydon (two men and a woman have been arrested) and a teenager was shot and injured in Wandsworth
- West Midlands (8) - a man was shot in a street in Birmingham (two men have been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder), a teenager was hit in the leg in Small Heath, two men were shot at a private party in Balsall Heath, two others were injured in a shooting in Aston, a 16-year-old was shot in the neck in Bell Green (Coventry) and a man was shot in the leg at a club in Brierley Hill
- One man was shot and seriously injured by police marksmen during an operation in Haslington (Lancashire) - a number of different guns are reported to have been fired during the incident (three men have been arrested).
- A man from Exeter shot himself in the chest with his rifle as he was putting it back in its cabinet after returning from hunting.
- At least 14 other people, many of them children or teenagers and some female, were injured in shootings with BB guns or airguns:
  - A girl was allegedly shot with an air rifle in Whitchurch (Shropshire) (a man has been arrested), a man was shot in the stomach with an air rifle whilst attending a party in Torquay (Devon), three toddlers at a birthday party in Melton Mowbray (Leicestershire) were targeted with an air rifle as they played on a trampoline (four teenagers were arrested), a 17-year-old was shot in the stomach with an airgun in Corby (Northamptonshire) and a mother and her baby were showered with glass when a bus was shot at with an airgun in Milton Keynes.
  - A man was shot with a BB gun outside a nightclub in Crystal Palace (south London), a woman walking her dog in Cheltenham (Gloucestershire) is believed to have been hit with a ball-bearing gun pellet, children playing in a park in Blackpool (Lancashire) were shot at by six youths with ball bearing guns (one boy was injured; three youths were given youth referral orders and a number of guns were confiscated), a 10-year-old boy was assaulted with a BB gun by older youths in Gloucester, an 11-year-old boy was shot in the face with a pellet gun at a school in Wembley (north west London) and a 16-year-old shot at with a BB gun, beaten and pistol whipped by other teenagers in Billericay (Essex).
  - A teenage girl attacked in Chiswick (west London) may have been injured with an imitation firearm (an 18-year-old have been charged with GBH with intent and possession of an imitation firearm to cause fear and violence).
- A female travel agent was shot in the arm with a stun gun during a robbery in Ashton (Greater Manchester).
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - There were robberies and attempted robberies allegedly involving guns at **Banks and Post Offices** in Melbourne (Derby) and Staple Tye (Essex), **Bookmakers** in Bury (Greater Manchester) (a shotgun was used), Hornsey (north London) and Bradford, a **Petrol Station** in Bilston (West Midlands) (a handgun), **Pubs, Restaurants and Cafés** in Horton Cross (Somerset), Chadderton (Greater Manchester) (a handgun), Cheshunt (Hertfordshire) and West Vale (West Yorkshire) (an airgun), **Shops** in Benton (Tyneside) (a shotgun; two men have been charged), Burnley (Lancashire) (a

shotgun; two people were arrested), Sandiacre (Derbyshire) (a stun gun), Hoole (Chester) (an imitation firearm), Kettering (Northamptonshire) (one man was hit with the barrel of a shotgun; two men were being questioned), Northampton (a handgun), Croydon (a shop worker was shot and critically injured - see above) and Hurst Green (Surrey) (a shotgun was fired) and a **Travel Agents** in Ashton (Greater Manchester) (a stun gun; a woman was injured - see above).

- **Security men** were robbed of cash at a petrol station in Braidwood (Lanarkshire), in Battersea (south London; shots were fired) and Kempston (Bedfordshire) (a shotgun was used).
- A robber who threatened his landlady in Hove (Sussex) before escaping with £200 in cash was charged with five other robberies in Sussex, on premises in Brighton, Haywards Heath and Crawley - a replica handgun was found by police.
- A car was stolen from a woman in Buttershaw (Bradford) by a man with a handgun. A taxi driver was robbed and injured and threatened with what is believed to have been a firearm in Walker (Tyneside). A youngster had a gun held to his head in Hollinwood (Greater Manchester) by teenagers who demanded his bike. A burger van trader had a cash card and cash stolen and his van trashed by four robbers with a gun in Nottingham.
- A man was arrested after a number of thefts in streets in Wood Green (north London) - he was charged with eight counts of robbery and attempted robbery and seven counts of possessing an imitation firearm. Two men armed with a stun gun stole a wallet from a man on a canal towpath in Long Eaton (Derbyshire). A man was robbed of his phone and cash in Whitby (North Yorkshire) by two men armed with what is believed to have been a handgun.
- A teenager was charged with robbery after a handbag was stolen at a music festival near Aspatria (Cumbria) - he is reported to have brandished a replica firearm.
- A man has been accused of brandishing an imitation handgun and robbing a security van in Ilford (east London) in June this year.
  
- **Other Incidents** - Shots were fired during a number of other incidents:
  - Bedfordshire - a gunman fired a shot outside a club in Luton
  - Birmingham - a road was closed in Bordesley after shots were fired
  - Cheshire - a gun was fired in a street in Winsford
  - Essex - a man has charged with possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life after gunshots were heard in a car park in Southend (a handgun was recovered)
  - Leicester - two men were charged with attempted murder after shots were fired
  - London - a car was damaged in a street in Gants Hill, another car was damaged on an estate in Tulse Hill and a front door was hit by shotgun pellets in Battersea
  - Merseyside - shots were fired at four people in a car in Everton, and three shots were fired at a house in West Derby
  - Scotland - the front door of a house in Dalkeith (Midlothian) was shot at during the night, probably with a shotgun
  - Somerset - a shotgun was fired through the letterbox at a home near Brushford
  - West Yorkshire - shots were fired at the occupant of a vehicle in Birkby, and a shotgun was fired from a car in West Bowling (Bradford), shattering a window in another vehicle
- In Battersea (south London) a man tried to shoot a gun from the back of a motorbike.
- A woman was threatened with a shotgun by two men who smashed into her home in Droylsden (Greater Manchester).
- Three men from Birmingham were charged after police found a loaded sawn-off shotgun in a car. A man from Plymouth has been accused of a number of

offences involving a number of different guns including a shotgun, a handgun and a stun gun. Following an incident in Ayr a man was charged with possession of a firearm and a woman faces other charges. A man from Ribblesdale (Lancashire) has been charged with possessing a handgun and possessing a gun when prohibited from doing so. A man from Golders Green (north London) faces a charge of possessing a prohibited firearm and ammunition as well as other charges after police searched thousands of safety deposit boxes. Seven men were arrested in a series of raids in Huyton (Merseyside) as part of a crackdown on gun crime.

- North Wales Police mounted a search after reports of men being seen with guns in a nature reserve in Conwy.
- A teenager from Blackbird Leys (Oxford) was arrested after brandishing a stun gun.
- **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 certainly so in at least six robberies allegedly carried out by the same man in Sussex, the theft of a handbag in Cumbria, seven street robberies allegedly committed by one man in Wood Green (north London), in a security van hold up in Ilford (east London) and robberies at a pub in West Vale (West Yorkshire) and a shop in Hoole (Cheshire). The frequent use of imitation firearms in armed robberies is also apparent from media reports of court cases (see below).
- A 16-year-old was arrested following a siege at a house in Marshchapel (Lincolnshire) - an air weapon and knife were recovered.
- In Mansfield (Nottinghamshire) a man was charged with possession of a BB gun with intent to cause fear of violence.
- In Bellsbank (Ayrshire) armed police were called to an incident in which three teenagers had a plastic BB gun.
- A 19-year-old was arrested and a BB gun seized after a man was seen wielding a handgun at a bowling alley in Ipswich.
- More than 40 people had to be evacuated from a building in Swindon (Wiltshire) - a man was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm, allegedly a replica, in a public place
- Two men were arrested in Walton (Surrey), one for affray and possession of a ball bearing gun after what is believed to have been a drinking session
- Two teenagers were charged with possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after a brawl in Chorley (Lancashire)
- One of two brothers involved in a fight in Bristol in July has been charged with possession of an imitation handgun
- A 16-year-old was arrested on suspicion of possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after two youths were seen pointing pistols at motorists in York
- Seven teenagers were arrested after they filmed YouTube videos of themselves with an imitation gun in Wood Green and Hornsey (north London).
- A woman forced to flee her home in Scotstoun (Glasgow) discovered weapons, including an airgun, belonging to her neighbours in a communal cupboard.
- The following acts of vandalism were carried out with airguns and BB guns:
  - Airguns were probably used to damage a school bus in Cardiff, two cars driving along the same road in Warfield (Berkshire), three cars whose drivers reported damage in Oswaldtwistle (Lancashire), other cars in Sheringham and North Walsham (Norfolk) and in Halifax (West Yorkshire), the Coastwatch station in Felixstowe (Suffolk), the windows of a charity base in Scunthorpe (Humberside) and a care home window in Bridlington (East Yorkshire)
  - Windows were shattered at a home in Dorking (Surrey) possibly as a result of an attack with a BB gun, the window of a home in Bishop's Cleeve

(Gloucestershire) was smashed with a BB gun pellet and another house window was damaged in Almondbury (West Yorkshire) by a BB gun or air weapon

- Five teenagers were arrested in Walmer (Kent) when a paintball gun was fired at cars and houses.
- A 15-year-old has been cautioned for possession of an imitation firearm in Whitley (Berkshire). A man was charged with possessing an air weapon in a public place after being seen carrying the weapon in Polegate (East Sussex).
- A ball bearing gun was among items confiscated from away fans at a football match in Oxford.
- Imitation guns were confiscated by police from two shops and a market stall in Burnley.
  
- **Guns Recoveries and Thefts** - Guns were found during searches in which drugs were recovered in Lower Caversham (Berkshire) (a blank-firing pistol) and Cardonald (Glasgow).
- A gun was recovered during a series of raids in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire aimed at organised crime, and police found a cache of air weapons during a raid in Houston (Renfrewshire).
- A shotgun and cartridges were stolen from a home in Rhyl (Clwyd), and three shotguns were among items stolen from a house in Chinnor (Oxfordshire).
- An air rifle was stolen from a flat in Leamington Spa (Warwickshire) by men who threatened the owner with the gun, an air pistol was stolen from the boot of a car in Bolton (Lancashire) and a .22 air rifle was stolen from a car in Meltham (West Yorkshire).
  
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - More animals and birds suffered as a result of shooting incidents reported during September, some of which were fatal. Cats fell victim to a number of airgun and pellet gun attacks, this month in Derbyshire, Essex (two incidents), Lincolnshire (two incidents), Suffolk, Surrey and Swansea
- There were reports from Cheshire and the West Midlands of swans and geese being shot. A rare kestrel was shot with a BB gun in Tyneside and a protected peregrine falcon was found wounded following a shotgun attack in North Yorkshire.

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- **Convictions** - A man has been found guilty of murder following the death of his partner who was shot at "point blank" range at their home in Thorne (South Yorkshire) with the killer's legally-owned shotgun - he will serve a minimum of 21 years. A man has pleaded guilty to murder and possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life - he shot and killed a man with a revolver in Mottingham (south London). A man who shot dead a teenager in Walworth (south London) was found guilty of murder and will serve at least 32 years.
  - A man has been jailed indefinitely for an attack on a 15-year-old girl and a robbery in which he was armed with a gun and a knife - both crimes took place in Kingsbury (north west London).
  - A teenager, one of eight men responsible for serious violence and disorder in Leeds, was given a 12 year sentence for various offences including possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear and violence and possession of a prohibited weapon.
  - Three men were found guilty of their involvement in a gunpoint kidnapping of two shopworkers who were falsely imprisoned in Plumstead (south east London) - three others had already pleaded guilty.

- One of two men responsible for an armed robbery at a home in Torquay during which three men were tied up at gunpoint and stamps stolen has been found guilty and jailed for at least 10 years.
  - A man thought to have been armed with a gun when he robbed a betting shop in Brighton has been jailed for 4 years. A man has admitted robbery and possession of a gun following a robbery at a store in Tilehurst (Berkshire).
  - An 18-year-old from Timperley (Cheshire) was jailed for three years after pleading guilty to possessing a sawn-off shotgun and other charges. A 19-year-old woman was sentenced to two years for hiding a revolver for a man at her home in Cricklewood (north west London).
  - An ex-Scotland international under-19 shooter from Longniddry (East Lothian) was jailed for nearly 4 years after pleading guilty to 8 charges relating to the purchase of prohibited weapons over the internet.
  - Four teenagers from Parson Cross (Sheffield) have been jailed for between 2 and 4½ years after displaying weapons including shotguns on social networking sites.
  - A man from Newport (Gwent) was given a conditional discharge after pleading guilty to possession of rimfire ammunition.
  - Four men were given sentences of between six and eight years for a series of raids on stores in the West Midlands in which they were armed with a stun gun, hammers and knives. A man who used a stun gun to beat his victim during a street robbery in Glasgow has been jailed for 5½ years. An Oxford woman who pleaded guilty to managing brothels received a further 18 months sentence for possession of a stun gun and a knife.
  - A police officer who shot a civilian worker during a training exercise in Kidlington (Oxfordshire) pleaded guilty to breaching health and safety rules. Thames Valley Police who had also pleaded guilty were fined £40,000.
- **Gun Factories (Convictions)** - There were two more examples in September of how the easy availability of replica weapons has provided a supply of real guns for criminal use. A man who bought up replica firearms and starting pistols and converted them in his home in Huyton (Merseyside), and was described as a "dealer in death" by the judge, was jailed for 20 years after pleading guilty to a number of charges of conspiring to supply guns and ammunition - other members of the gang were convicted and three have been sentenced to between 30 months and 7 years. Another man, an ex-soldier who used skills he acquired in the Royal Artillery to convert replica guns into real weapons in factories in Essex and Bath, pleaded guilty to two counts of possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life, converting imitation firearms into real guns and possessing or manufacturing prohibited ammunitions - the weapons he converted were supplied to street gangs in Liverpool, Manchester and the West Midlands and have been linked to 28 incidents including one alleged murder.
- **Airguns and Imitation Guns (Court Cases)** - Three men were cleared of firearms charges following the death of a teenage girl who was shot in the eye with an airgun pellet at a party in Bury - they were cleared of possessing a firearm without a licence because the .22 airgun did not require one.
  - A man who shot a postman in Barrhead (Renfrewshire) with an air pistol has been jailed for 3 years and 9 months. Another man has admitted assaulting and injuring a young teenager by firing a BB gun at him in Cumnock (Ayrshire).
  - A 19-year-old from Leeswood (Clwyd) who held an air rifle to the head of a man has admitted possessing his father's gun with intent to cause fear of violence and received 2 years youth custody. An offender who drunkenly pointed an air rifle at his partner's chest at their home in Worcester was given a 16 week suspended custodial sentence and ordered to carry out 60 hours unpaid work. Another man who had been drinking heavily has admitted brandishing an airgun at a police officer during an incident in Tenterden (Kent) - he pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and two other offences. A man who

waved a toy gun at police in Melton Mowbray admitted affray and possession of an imitation firearm and was given a suspended 15-week jail sentence.

- A man who called paramedics to his home in Worthing (Sussex) and pointed a gun at them was found guilty of possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and jailed for 4 years.
- A man involved in a siege at his house in Cresswell (Northumberland) threatened to kill himself and suffered superficial wounds from a .22 air rifle - he admitted possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear and was jailed for 21 months. Another man who pointed an air rifle at himself during a siege at a house in Kilmacolm (Renfrewshire) has pleaded guilty to various offences. A man was stopped from hurting himself by two police officers when he walked into a police station in Woodford (Essex) armed with an airgun and a kitchen knife - he was found guilty of possessing an air weapon and possessing a knife.
- A woman arrested in Glasgow with a toy gun has admitted possession of an imitation firearm and possessing such an item with intent to commit assault - she had travelled over 200 miles with the apparent intention to attack her husband.
- A man who sparked a gun scare when he was seen with an air pistol on a train and in a taxi in Airdrie (Lanarkshire) has been jailed for 16 months after admitting two charges of possessing a firearm with intent to cause someone to believe that unlawful violence might be used. Another man from Burton (Staffordshire) admitting possessing an imitation handgun with intent to cause three men to fear that unlawful violence would take place.
- There were a number of convictions for robberies and attempted robberies in which the offender(s) was armed with an imitation firearm. The incidents occurred:
  - at shops and post offices in Dundonald (Ayrshire) (the man admitted presenting an imitation firearm), Bearwood (Dorset) (a man has been jailed for 3 years) and in Brislington (Bristol) when a store supervisor was shot in the back with a gas-powered air pistol (a man has been convicted and jailed for 10 years)
  - at bookmakers in north west London (two men were sentenced to 3 years and 18 months) and in north London and Hertfordshire (two brothers have been jailed for 6 years)
  - at homes in Hartlepool (one of the men who pleaded guilty to aggravated burglary and possession of an imitation firearm was armed with a fake submachine gun), Crewe (Cheshire) (five men pleaded guilty to aggravated burglary and possession of an imitation firearm) and Doncaster in which one of three men brandished an imitation firearm (he was given a 39 month sentence)
  - in Pinner (north west London) where motorists were targeted (a man has been sentenced to 6 years in a detention centre)
  - in Birmingham where the offenders' brother-in-law was pistol-whipped and his taxi taken (two men were jailed for 8 years)
  - in a robbery in Woking (Surrey) in which the victim was ambushed after the placement of fake car adverts on the internet (two men have been jailed for 7 and 6 years)
- A man who walked into a pharmacy in Paisley (Renfrewshire) with a fake gun whilst "out of it" has been jailed for 10 months.
- A 16-year-old has admitted breaching his curfew order, possession of a fake gun (an imitation handgun) and assaulting a police officer in Sunderland.
- A man and a woman caught with an imitation firearm and cannabis plants at their home in Little Downham (Cambridgeshire) were given suspended prison sentences and community service.
- Two teenagers who were firing an air rifle on wasteland in Hartlepool admitted having a weapon in a public place and were fined £65 each. A man arrested in Weston-super-Mare (Somerset) was given a suspended 12-week prison sentence after pleading guilty to possessing an air rifle in a public place.

## GUN INCIDENTS - SEPTEMBER 2009

### ENGLAND

**MK News**, 30 September 2009

A mother and her baby were showered with glass when a bus travelling in **Shenley Lodge**, Milton Keynes, was shot with an **airgun**. The woman sustained a small cut.

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 30 September 2009

A **.22 air rifle** was taken from a car in **Meltham**, West Yorkshire.

**Stourbridge News**, 29 September 2009

Kevin McClenaghan, an off-duty police officer from **Brierley Hill**, West Midlands, has been commended for his bravery after he confronted a man in January 2009. The man wearing camouflage clothes was walking away from a parked car with what looked like a firearm in his hands. He followed the man, who then pointed an **air rifle**, and pulled the gun from his reach before arresting him.

**Evening Courier**, 29 September 2009

A pub landlord in **West Vale**, West Yorkshire, was ambushed as he cashed up by two men wielding baseball bats and an **airgun**. The gun was found at the scene and has been sent for forensic analysis.

**Echo**, 29 September 2009

A 16-year-old was shot at with a **BB gun**, beaten and pistol whipped by other teenagers in a park in **Billericay**, Essex. The victim and two friends were attacked without warning.

**The Citizen (Blackburn)**, 29 September 2009

Drivers were shot at by **air rifle** snipers in **Oswaldtwistle**, Lancashire. Police say motorists only managed to avoid an accident by good luck. The drivers of three vehicles contacted police after incidents which damaged their cars.

**BBC**, 29 September 2009

Ashley Bucknor shot dead a teenager in an attack at a supermarket in **Walworth**, south London, in August 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). The shot was fired in retaliation following an earlier incident. He was found guilty of murder and must serve at least 32 years.

**Wandsworth Guardian**, 28 September 2009

A 17-year-old was shot and injured in **Wandsworth**, south London. He was in a stable condition in hospital.

**Manchester Evening News**, 28 September 2009

A woman was threatened with a **shotgun** when two men smashed their way into her house in **Droylsden**, Greater Manchester. Police believe the men may have gone to the wrong address.

**Evening Telegraph (Northamptonshire)**, 28 September 2009

A 17-year-old was shot with an **airgun** in **Corby**, Northamptonshire. He was leaving a petrol station when he was shot by someone on one of three off-road motorcycles. He was hit in the lower stomach area though was not seriously injured.

**BBC**, 27 September 2009

A gunman fired a shot outside a club in **Luton**, Bedfordshire. Nobody was hurt and no property was damaged.

**BBC**, 27 September 2009

Nine people were arrested after gunshots were heard in **Southend**, Essex. Police were called to a car park and recovered a handgun. A man has been charged with possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life (*BBC*, 28 September 2009).

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 26 September 2009

A suspected robber has been shot and seriously injured by police marksmen during an operation in **Haslington**, Lancashire. Three suspects were detected by firearms officers. The man was taken to hospital where he was described as in a serious but stable condition. Two other men were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit armed robbery. Two **shotguns**, a Glock handgun, a TP9 semi-automatic weapon and a Taser were all fired during the incident (*BBC*, 29 September 2009). A man has been charged with conspiracy to commit robbery and owning a firearm while disqualified (*BBC*, 3 October 2009).

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 26 September 2009

A **BB gun** or **air weapon** was fired at a kitchen window in **Almondbury**, West Yorkshire, causing a hole in the outer pane of glass.

**BBC**, 26 September 2009

Two men have been taken to hospital after they were found with gunshot wounds in **Aston**, Birmingham. Both victims are said to be in a stable condition. One of the men has since been released from hospital but a 19-year-old who has a bullet wound in his lower back remains in hospital (*BBC*, 30 September 2009).

**This is Surrey Today**, 25 September 2009

A **shotgun** was fired into the ceiling of a store in **Hurst Green**, Surrey, during an armed robbery. Two men demanded cash from the shopkeeper but the men ran out of the store empty handed.

**Sunderland Echo**, 25 September 2009

A 16-year-old was found with an **imitation handgun**, a mask and cans of lager. The teenager from **Sunderland** had breached his curfew order. He admitted breaching his order, possession of a fake gun and assaulting a police officer.

**Mid Cheshire Chronicle**, 25 September 2009

A gun was fired in **Winsford**, Cheshire. It is thought the incident is linked to one in which a group of men armed with baseball bats smashed up a vehicle.

**Guardian (Epping Forest, Waltham Forest, Wanstead & Woodford)**, 25 September 2009

A man was shot in the leg outside a pub in **Leyton**, north east London. A few days before a teenager had been shot in the groin in the same street. A paramedic was also shot with an **airgun** in **Leyton** in August 2009.

**BBC**, 25 September 2009

A man carrying a **sawn-off shotgun** confronted a security guard in **Kempston**, Bedfordshire and took a cash box. The anti-theft device went off leaving the robber covered in red dye.

**This is Nottingham**, 24 September 2009

A burger van trader was beaten with metal bars and had a gun put to his head by four robbers. The robbery took place at a retail park in **Nottingham** where the victim was staying overnight in his van in an attempt to stop it being vandalised. A cash card and £65 were stolen and the van trashed.

**This is Gloucestershire**, 24 September 2009

A home in **Bishop's Cleeve**, Gloucestershire, has been attacked and a window smashed with a **BB gun** pellet.

**The Press**, 24 September 2009

Two youths were seen pointing realistic looking pistols at passing motorists in **York**, resulting in a number of calls to police from concerned members of the public. A 16-year-old was arrested on suspicion of possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. Police have issued yet another warning over the use of **BB guns** and have asked parents not to buy such items for their children.

**Harrow Observer**, 24 September 2009

An 11-year-old boy was allegedly shot in the face with a **pellet gun** at a school in **Wembley**, north west London. The boy was left with a broken tooth. A 12-year-old boy was arrested for wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and bailed.

**Evening Standard**, 24 September 2009

Seven suspected teenage gang members have been arrested after they filmed YouTube videos with an **imitation gun** in **Wood Green** and **Hornsey**, north London.

**Doncaster Free Press**, 24 September 2009

Alistair Lees, Simon Cooper and Chris Taylor have been jailed after an attempted robbery at a home in **Doncaster**, South Yorkshire, in February 2008 during which Lees brandished an **imitation firearm**. Cooper and Taylor, who are both aged 18, said they were unaware that Lees had taken a gun. They all pleaded guilty to attempted robbery and Lees admitted a charge of possession of an imitation firearm. Lees was given a 39 month sentence, the other offenders were ordered to serve 15 months in a Young Offenders' Institution.

**Cambridge News**, 24 September 2009

Andrew Billimore and Vicki Gray were caught with cannabis plants and an **imitation firearm** at their home in **Little Downham**, Cambridgeshire. Billimore was given a 12-month suspended prison sentence and ordered to do 200 hours of community service, Gray received a nine-month suspended prison sentence and 150 hours of community service.

**BBC**, 24 September 2009

Richard McCrorie and Alexander Gould, who placed fake car adverts on the Gumtree website and then robbed people who responded, pleaded guilty to robbery, attempted robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm**. In their first attack in **Woking**, Surrey, the men, one carrying a black pistol, ran from behind a hedge and dragged their victim from a driver's seat. McCrorie was jailed for seven years and Gould for six years.

**BBC**, 24 September 2009

Seven men have been arrested in a series of raids in **Huyton**, Merseyside, as part of a crackdown on gun crime.

**West Yorkshire Police**, 23 September 2009

Javan Service, 18, one of eight men who started serious violence and disorder in **Leeds** city centre in December 2008 (see [January 2009 Incidents](#)), has been given a 12 year sentence for violent disorder, grievous bodily harm, possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear and violence and possession of a prohibited weapon.

**This is Bristol**, 23 September 2009

A store supervisor has told a court how she was shot in the back and had a handgun held to her face during a robbery in **Brislington**, Bristol, in November 2008. A man has denied robbery and having a firearm with intent, a silver **gas-powered air pistol**. A second man said to be involved has not been identified. Michael Daly has been convicted of robbery and having a firearm with intent and has been jailed for 10 years (*This is Bristol*, 25 September 2009).

**Tameside Advertiser**, 23 September 2009

A female travel agent was shot in the arm with a **stun gun** during an armed robbery in **Ashton**, Greater Manchester. The gang, a woman and three men, stole a large amount of cash.

**Scarborough Evening News**, 23 September 2009

A man was robbed at gunpoint when he was approached from behind by two men in **Whitby**, North Yorkshire. One of the men held what is believed to be a black handgun to the victim's chest before making off with his phone and a sum of cash.

**Oldham Advertiser**, 23 September 2009

A youngster riding a BMX bike had a gun held to his head by a group of older teenagers who demanded he hand over the bike. The incident took place in **Hollinwood**, Greater Manchester.

**Kent Online**, 23 September 2009

Five teenagers have been arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear. The arrests followed complaints that a **paintball gun** was being fired at cars and houses in **Walmer**, Kent. A paintball gun was found by police.

**Evening Courier**, 23 September 2009

Thousands of pounds of damage were caused when more than 20 cars were targeted by vandals in **Halifax**, West Yorkshire. It is believed those responsible were travelling in a car and were using an **airgun**.

**Crewe and Nantwich Guardian**, 23 September 2009

Five men have been jailed for six years each for holding a homeowner in **Crewe**, Cheshire, at gunpoint. They burst into the home and forced him to lie on the floor with the gun pointed at his head. The attack was interrupted when a female living at the house managed to hide and dial 999. Thomas Clough, Philip Burton, Christopher Roland, Daniel Edwards and Keith Pashill pleaded guilty to aggravated burglary and possession of an **imitation firearm**.

**Worcester News**, 22 September 2009

An inquest heard that a depressed woman purchased a **.22 air rifle** the day before she was found dead at her home in **Malvern**, Worcestershire, in May 2009. She had shot herself with the gun. The coroner recorded a verdict of suicide.

**Peterlee Mail**, 22 September 2009

A court has heard how two men burst into a home in **Hartlepool** in armed with a **fake submachine gun** and a knife. The men demanded cash and the victims were forced to hand over £130. One of the men, David Whitehead, has pleaded guilty to aggravated burglary and possession of an imitation firearm. Paul Keers, who denied being involved, was found guilty aggravated burglary and possession of an offensive weapon (*Hartlepool Mail*, 25 September 2009).

**Hertfordshire Mercury**, 22 September 2009

A robber made off with the takings from a pub in **Cheshunt**, Hertfordshire, after threatening a member of staff with a gun. No-one was injured during the robbery.

**BBC**, 22 September 2009

A teenager was shot during an attack by a gang of masked men in **Huyton**, Merseyside. The 19-year-old was taken to hospital for treatment to a gunshot wound to his buttock.

**BBC**, 22 September 2009

Two men armed with a knife and a firearm demanded money in a raid on a post office in **Staple Tye**, Essex, but drove off without taking any money.

**The Argus**, 22 September 2009

Gavin Pryce thought to be armed with a gun when he demanded cash from betting shop staff in **Brighton** in April 2009. He stole a total of £1389. He has been jailed for four years.

**North Norfolk News**, 21 September 2009

Cars in **Sheringham** and **North Walsham**, Norfolk, have been damaged and police believe an **airgun** was involved.

**Louth Leader**, 21 September 2009

Armed police were called to a house in **Marshchapel**, Lincolnshire, where a 16-year-old boy had locked himself in his bedroom with a knife. A knife and an **air weapon** were found during a search of the house. The boy fled the scene but was arrested later on suspicion of common assault.

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 21 September 2009

Two or three gun shots were fired at the occupant of a vehicle in **Birkby**, West Yorkshire. The incident took place close to the entrance to a busy park.

**The Herald (Plymouth)**, 21 September 2009

A 19-year-old has appeared in court accused of threatening strangers in the street with a gun as well as imprisoning a man and injuring him. The charges include robbery, assault causing actual bodily harm, making threats to kill and possessing a handgun. The incident with the gun took place near **Whitleigh Bridge**, Plymouth, in June 2009.

**Harrow Times**, 21 September 2009

Fatai Olaiya has been jailed indefinitely for an attack on a 15-year-old girl, whom he raped twice, and for an armed robbery which he committed 25 minutes later. Both crimes took place in **Kingsbury**, north west London. During the robbery he was armed with a knife and a gun. His victim dropped his car keys and Olaiya drove off in the vehicle. He was arrested after being chased by police. He has been jailed indefinitely and must serve a minimum of five years.

**Guardian**, 21 September 2009

Paul Alexander, an ex-soldier, set up gun factories from which he supplied weapons to street gangs in **Liverpool**, **Manchester** and the **West Midlands**. Using skills he acquired while serving in the Royal Artillery he converted **replica guns** at factories in **Bardfield Saling**, Essex, and **Bath**. His DNA was discovered on a handgun seized by police during a crackdown on gang violence in Liverpool following the death of Rhys Jones. Alexander was arrested at the property he rented in Essex where police uncovered 28 firearms and more than 10,000 bullets. He has been linked to ammunition and guns used in 28 incidents including one alleged murder, four attempted murders, nine other shootings and an armed robbery. He pleaded guilty to two counts of possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life, converting imitation firearms into real guns, possessing or manufacturing prohibited ammunition and other offences. Sentencing was adjourned awaiting background reports.

**Get Reading**, 21 September 2009

Clive Adams is due to be sentenced after admitting one count of robbery and one of possession of a gun following a robbery at a convenience store in **Tilehurst**, Berkshire. His co-defendant was acquitted.

**Get Bracknell**, 21 September 2009

Two cars were damaged as they were being driven along the same road in **Warfield**, Berkshire. Police think the damage to both cars was caused by pellets from an **air weapon**. After the first incident the driver saw two boys, aged about 11 or 12, running away.

**Express & Star**, 21 September 2009

Two men who posed as police officers, one of whom then brandished a handgun, stole cash from the safe of a petrol station in **Bilston**, West Midlands. They also took £15,000 of cigarettes.

**BBC**, 21 September 2009

A man was shot during a party at a club in **Brierley Hill**, West Midlands. He received treatment to a wound to his leg and was later released.

**The Argus**, 21 September 2009

Two paramedics called to a house in **Worthing**, West Sussex, after reports that a man had fallen found him sitting in his wheelchair, demanding morphine for a headache. One of the paramedics noticed a gun lying on a radiator moments before a second gun was pointed at him. He tackled and disarmed the gunman and called the police. Both guns were discovered to be fake. Ian Wilson was found guilty of possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of unlawful violence and jailed for four years. The paramedic, Garry Perkins, was awarded £400 for his bravery.

**BBC**, 20 September 2009

Three shots were fired at a house in **West Derby**, Liverpool. The house was unoccupied at the time of the shooting. It is believed that the gunmen were on a scrambler bike (*Liverpool Echo*, 23 September 2009).

**BBC**, 20 September 2009

A taxi driver found dead in the boot of his vehicle at **Cromford** railway station in Derbyshire had been beaten and shot. A man has been charged with murder (*BBC*, 1 October 2009).

**BBC**, 19 September 2009

A man has died in hospital after he was shot in **Oldham**, Greater Manchester. The victim opened the door to his home after hearing a disturbance outside and was shot at three times. Two men have been arrested (*BBC*, 20 September 2009). It is understood that the police are investigating whether the murder is linked to two other recent fatal shootings in Greater Manchester (*Manchester Evening News*, 21 September 2009). Two brothers have been charged with murder (*BBC*, 28 October 2009).

**Enfield Independent**, 18 September 2009

Two brothers from **Edmonton**, north London, held up 11 bookmakers across **north London** and **Hertfordshire**. They pointed handguns at staff and customers. They pleaded guilty to four counts of robbery, two counts of attempted robbery and five counts of possessing a firearm or imitation firearm with intent to commit robbery. Nelson Muzinga asked for a further three counts of robbery to be taken into account and three counts of possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent to rob. Ivo Muzinga asked for a further five counts of robbery to be taken into account and five further counts of possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent to rob. Both men were jailed for six years (*Enfield Independent*, 2 October 2009).

**Citizen (Gloucester)**, 18 September 2009

A 10-year-old boy has been assaulted with a **BB gun** while playing in the park in **Gloucester**. He and his cousin were approached by older youths who asked to use their football and when they refused one of the youths fired the gun.

**BBC**, 18 September 2009

A shop worker was critically injured when he was shot during a robbery at a cash-and-carry in **Croydon**, south London. He challenged a group of masked men stealing jewellery from cabinets. The victim was shot in the chest at close range. Two men and a woman have been arrested (*BBC*, 25 September 2009).

**BBC**, 18 September 2009

PC David Micklethwaite, a firearms instructor, shot a civilian worker during a training exercise at Thames Valley Police Headquarters North in **Kidlington**, Oxfordshire, in May 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). The victim was shot in the stomach at point blank range with a Smith & Wesson .44 Magnum revolver while he was listening to a lecture. PC Micklethwaite has pleaded guilty to breaching health and safety rules. Thames Valley Police has been fined £40,000 for breaching health and safety laws (*BBC*, 24 September 2009).

**This is Wiltshire**, 17 September 2009

A ground worker who in 2008 confronted a man armed with what looked like a handgun during an incident at a pub in **Devizes**, Wiltshire, took him outside, removed his weapon and waited until police arrived has received a commendation from senior officers. Matthew Smith was told that his actions were "absolutely outstanding. This was a brave and courageous act". In November 2008 Tim Coombes pleaded guilty to possession of a **ball-bearing gun** and was given a 12-month conditional discharge.

**Morpeth Herald**, 17 September 2009

In May 2009 Philip Walton made a 999 call saying he had a gun and was going to kill himself. He was then involved in a six-hour siege with armed police at his home in **Cresswell**, Northumberland, during which he was seen wandering the rooms of his house naked and brandishing a rifle, which police only realised later was a **.22 air rifle** when they heard shots. Walton suffered only superficial wounds. He has admitted possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear and been jailed for 21 months.

**Kent Online**, 17 September 2009

A depressed man deliberately brandished a gun at a police officer in the hope he would himself be killed, a court has heard. James Miles was armed with a knife and an **airgun** after he had been drinking heavily and had an argument with his girlfriend. The incident took place in **Tenterden**, Kent, in May 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). The police officer tackled Miles and kicked the gun away. Miles admitted possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, having a bladed article and damaging property.

**Bridlington Free Press**, 17 September 2009

The window of a care home in **Bridlington**, East Yorkshire, was damaged by a suspected **airgun** shot.

**West Sussex Gazette**, 16 September 2009

A loaded handgun, probably a World War II Luger pistol, was found in the River Adur at **Shoreham**, West Sussex, whilst a man and his children were crabbing. The gun's origins are being checked.

**This is Scunthorpe**, 16 September 2009

A man has been charged in connection with an armed robbery in **Scunthorpe**, South Humberside, in which the shopkeeper was threatened with an **imitation firearm**.

**This is Derbyshire**, 16 September 2009

A man was confronted on a canal towpath in **Long Eaton**, Derbyshire, by two men on bicycles armed with a **stun gun**. He was made to hand over his wallet containing £90. This is the third recent robbery in Derbyshire involving a stun gun.

**Telegraph & Argus**, 16 September 2009

A man with a handgun pointed the weapon at a female debt collector on an estate in **Buttershaw**, Bradford. He and another man took the victim's car keys and drove off in the vehicle.

**Melton Times**, 16 September 2009

A sniper armed with an **air rifle** caused panic at a toddler's birthday party in **Melton Mowbray**, Leicestershire. The culprit fired at a group of children on a trampoline. Shots ripped through the trampoline hitting a 3-year-old girl on the inner thigh causing her to bleed. Two 2-year-old boys were also hit in the chest leaving red wounds. Two pellets were found. Four teenagers have been arrested and released on police bail (*BBC*, 19 September 2009).

**Manchester Evening News**, 16 September 2009

Three men have been cleared of firearms charges after the death of a teenage girl who was hit in the eye with an **airgun** pellet in **Bury** in December 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). They had been charged with possessing a firearm without a licence but the prosecution offered no evidence after detailed ballistic tests and examination showed that the .22 airgun did not require a licence. The three men were all friends of the victim.

**Herald Express**, 16 September 2009

A man was shot in the stomach with an **air rifle** as he attended a party in **Torquay**, Devon. He was able to pull the pellet from his wound but suffered blood loss, although he did not go to hospital. He saw his attackers fire their weapon several times from a nearby flat. The victim was not happy with the police response which took over half an hour.

**Evening Post (Bristol)**, 16 September 2009

One of two brothers involved in a fight in **Bristol** in July 2009 has been charged with possession of an **imitation firearm**. He was found with a grey handgun and a large knife, his brother with two knives, and his brother has been jailed.

**Chorley Guardian**, 16 September 2009

Three teenagers have been charged in connection with an alleged brawl involving an **imitation firearm** in **Chorley**, Lancashire. Two of them were charged with possession of an imitation firearm with intention to cause fear of violence.

**Birmingham Mail**, 16 September 2009

A road in **Bordesley**, Birmingham, was closed by police after reports that shots were fired. No injuries were reported.

**BBC**, 16 September 2009

Three roads in **Camberley**, Surrey, were closed after police were called to an incident at a flat which was said to involve firearms. No weapons were discharged. It was later reported that the two men, who had pushed their way into a flat, did not have guns (*BBC*, 18 September 2009).

**BBC**, 16 September 2009

A 15-year-old boy is in a serious condition in hospital after he was shot in the back with a **shotgun** in **Wandsworth**, south-west London. Another victim of the attack, aged 16, received a minor wound to his foot.

**Weston & Somerset Mercury**, 15 September 2009

Jay Scott was arrested by an off-duty police officer when he was brandishing an **air rifle** in woodland near **Weston-super-Mare**, Somerset. He claimed he didn't know it was illegal to use an air rifle in the woods. He had bought the gun in the search for a new hobby. He pleaded guilty to possessing the gun in a public place. He was given a 12-week prison sentence suspended for 15 months and ordered to pay costs.

**This is Derbyshire**, 15 September 2009

A robber used a **stun gun**-type weapon to threaten staff at a shop in **Derby**. He was handed cash and then ran away. It is thought no-one was injured.

**Surrey Herald**, 15 September 2009

Two men have been arrested, one for affray and possession of a **ball bearing gun**, believed to be used for intimidation, and the other for possession of a samurai sword in **Walton**, Surrey, after what is believed to have been a drinking session.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 15 September 2009

A shop worker at a **Northampton** holiday park was threatened by a robber who put a handgun to his head and said he would "blow his head off". The victim was forced to hand over £150 before the robber ran off.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 15 September 2009

A man threatened staff at a supermarket in **Kettering**, Northamptonshire, with a **double-barrelled shotgun**. One man was hit with the barrel of the gun, but he and two other staff members managed to push the robber through the door. The man then returned armed with a samurai sword and helped himself to cigarettes and alcohol whilst the staff locked themselves in a warehouse. Two men are being questioned by police.

**Newham Recorder**, 15 September 2009

A man has been accused of holding up a security van in **Ilford**, east London, in June 2009 and stealing £9,000. He and another man are said to have brandished an **imitation handgun** at a security guard. He has denied robbery and possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear or violence.

**Local Guardian**, 15 September 2009

In a fourth gun incident in **Battersea**, south London, in a week a man tried to shoot a gun in a street as he was riding on the back of a motorbike.

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 15 September 2009

A man from **Ribbleton**, Preston, has been charged with possession of a handgun and possessing a gun when prohibited from doing so for five years.

**Ilford Recorder**, 15 September 2009

Police were called after shots were fired in a street in **Gants Hill**, east London. A car sustained gunshot damage.

**Evening Star**, 15 September 2009

Vandals believed to have been armed with a high-powered **air rifle** shot at the Coastwatch station in **Felixstowe**, Suffolk. A hole was discovered in the main window of the centre.

**Burton Mail**, 15 September 2009

Douglas Haw from **Burton**, Staffordshire, has admitted possessing an **imitation handgun** with intent to cause three men to fear that unlawful violence would take place. He also pleaded guilty to possessing a Japanese martial arts weapon. He has been released on bail for pre-sentence reports.

**Wandsworth Guardian**, 14 September 2009

A man was shot in the leg in **Tooting**, south London. He made his way to hospital where staff alerted the police.

**Telegraph & Argus**, 14 September 2009

Shots were fired from a car as it pursued another vehicle through streets in **West Bowling**, Bradford. The back window of a car was shattered by one blast from a **shotgun** but its occupant escaped injury.

**Telegraph & Argus**, 14 September 2009

Three men staged an armed robbery on a betting shop in **Bradford**. The men, who were brandishing a knife and a gun, made threats to staff and escaped with a quantity of cash.

**News Guardian**, 14 September 2009

A taxi driver sustained a broken nose and cracked ribs after he was robbed of cash by three passengers in **Walker**, Tyneside. During the robbery he was threatened with what is believed to be a firearm.

**Melton Times**, 14 September 2009

Marion Mucha brandished a knife in front of a motorist and then drunkenly waved a **toy gun** at police in **Melton Mowbray**, Leicestershire, in August 2008. He admitted affray and possession of an imitation firearm and was given a suspended 51-week jail term with supervision.

**Liverpool Echo**, 14 September 2009

A man walked into a pub in **Fazakerley**, Liverpool, pulled out a revolver, shouted something and shot himself. Police confirmed a fatality which is being investigated as an "unexplained death".

**Liverpool Echo**, 14 September 2009

Shots were fired at four people in a car in **Everton**, Merseyside. They came from another car. No one was injured.

**Herald (Plymouth)**, 14 September 2009

A man from **Plymouth** has been accused of false imprisonment of a woman, possession of drugs with intent to supply, possession of criminal property (cash), possession of a **stun gun**, possession of a **double-barrelled shotgun** without a certificate, possession of a shot-barrelled handgun, possession of a handgun with intent to cause fear to a woman, possession of 9mm rounds of ammunition without a firearms certificate, possession of a shotgun while prohibited.

**Chester Chronicle**, 14 September 2009

A man armed with an **imitation firearm** stole cash from a shop in **Hoole**, Chester. The two workers were not injured, but were left in shock.

**Birmingham Mail**, 14 September 2009

Brothers Sharif Ali, from **Alum Rock**, and Nazket Ali, from **Erdington**, pistol-whipped their brother-in-law before robbing him of his taxi. The attack following a domestic dispute. They were both convicted of robbery and possessing an **imitation firearm** and jailed for eight years. Nazket Ali was also admitted producing cannabis.

**Birmingham Mail**, 14 September 2009

Two men were under guard in hospital after being shot at a private party in **Balsall Heath**, Birmingham. One of the victims was found inside the venue and the second man turned up at hospital. Their injuries are not life-threatening.

**Times**, 12 September 2009

David Hampson was described by a judge as a "dealer in death" when he was jailed for 20 years after pleading guilty to a number of charges of conspiring to supply guns and ammunition. He had transformed the kitchen in his home in **Huyton**, Merseyside, into a workshop where he could manufacture weapons. He could transform a **replica firearm** into a handgun in 20 minutes, and his speciality was converting miniature torches into single-shot weapons. Hampson would buy up replica firearms and starting pistols from army supplies stores. Other members of the gang were jailed, Thomas March for 30 months after being convicted of conspiring to supply ammunition and firearms and Neil Perry and Martin Pearson, who admitted the same charges, for five and seven years, respectively. Dean Gerrard will be sentenced later.

**Oxford Mail**, 12 September 2009

Jamie-Lee Rowland from **Oxford**, one of two women who pleaded guilty to and were jailed for jointly conspiring to manage a network of eight brothels, was sentenced to a further 18 months for the possession of a **stun gun** and a knife.

**Harrow Times**, 12 September 2009

John Laslett and James Murphy have been sentenced to three years and 18 months imprisonment, respectively, following a series of armed robberies on bookmakers in north west London in March 2009. The premises were in **Harrow, Edgware, Colindale, Mill Hill** and **Burnt Oak**. Laslett pleaded guilty to nine offences of robbery and one offence of possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to commit robbery and Murphy pleaded guilty to one offence of robbery.

**BBC**, 12 September 2009

Five teenagers, aged between 16 and 19, suffered gunshot wounds in a incident in **Tottenham**, north London, in which another victim was stabbed. None of the victims have life-threatening injuries. Five people, including one of those shot, have been detained by police.

**Wandsworth Guardian**, 11 September 2009

A man is recovering after being shot in the shoulder in **Southfields**, south London. His injuries were described as non life-threatening.

**Wandsworth Guardian**, 11 September 2009

In a third shooting in **Battersea**, south London, in just 24 hours a woman found marks made by **shotgun** pellets in her front door.

**Get Wokingham**, 11 September 2009

A man was shot four times after an incident at a mobile home park in **Crowthorne**, Berkshire. The victim is in a stable condition in hospital. The police have described the incident as a family dispute that got out of hand (*BBC*, 11 September 2009). Three people have been arrested but were later released without charge (*BBC*, 13 September 2009). Another man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder (*BBC*, 2 October 2009).

**Gazette (Blackpool)**, 11 September 2009

Six youths went to a park in **Blackpool**, Lancashire, armed with **ball bearing guns** and targeted half a dozen children, aged between two and 13, who were playing there. One boy was hit in the leg with a pellet. Their mothers called 999 but the operator refused to send a patrol car. The families later received an apology from the police. Two 13-year-old boys and one 12-year-old have been given youth referral orders and a number of BB guns have been confiscated.

**Bucks Herald**, 11 September 2009

Thieves stole three **shotguns** from a house in **Chinnor**, Oxfordshire. They removed a gun safe containing the guns as well as another safe containing a substantial amount of cash. Both safes were later found dumped and empty in **Princes Risborough**, Buckinghamshire.

**Bolton News**, 11 September 2009

An **air pistol** was among items stolen from the boot of a car in **Bolton**, Lancashire. The police are concerned that the weapon, which looks like a silver handgun could be used in more serious crimes and could cause injury if it is fired.

**Bexhill-on-Sea Observer**, 11 September 2009

A man has been charged with possessing an unloaded **air weapon** in a public place. He is alleged to have been carrying the weapon on a footbridge in **Polegate**, East Sussex.

**Wandsworth Guardian**, 10 September 2009

Two men were being treated for serious injuries after shooting incidents in **Battersea**, south London. Police were called to reports of shots being fired in a street and discovered a man with stab wounds but did not find anyone with gunshot injuries. A short while later armed police surrounded a van and a man was pulled from the vehicle. He had been shot in the leg and there was gunshot damage to the van. The police have not confirmed whether the incidents were linked. Five youths have been arrested and bailed.

**Tottenham, Wood Green & Edmonton Journal**, 10 September 2009

Two men threatened staff at a bookmakers in **Hornsey**, north London, with a gun and made off with an undisclosed sum of cash.

**Swindon Advertiser**, 10 September 2009

More than 40 people were evacuated from a council building in **Swindon**, Wiltshire, after a man allegedly entered the building with a **replica firearm**. Police were called when someone spotted the weapon. A man was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm in a public place.

**Manchester Evening News**, 10 September 2009

Two masked men who threatened a worker in a cafe in **Chadderton**, Greater Manchester, with a handgun, walked away empty-handed after they couldn't open the till.

**Hounslow Chronicle**, 10 September 2009

An 18-year-old boy has been charged with GBH with intent and possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear and violence. The charges arise from an attack on a teenage girl in **Chiswick**, west London. The girl's injuries may have been caused by a gun.

**Guardian (Epping Forest, Waltham Forest, Wanstead & Woodford)**, 10 September 2009

Two police officers have been commended for stopping a man who walked into the police station in **Woodford**, Essex, from hurting himself and others with a kitchen knife and an **airgun** in June 2009. The man was later arrested and found guilty of possessing an air weapon and possessing a knife.

**Get Reading**, 10 September 2009

A 15-year-old boy has been cautioned for possession of an **imitation firearm** in **Whitley**, Berkshire, and being discovered with a firearm by police in June 2009.

**Express & Echo**, 10 September 2009

A man is understood to be recovering in hospital after shooting himself in the chest and shoulder in his home in **Pennsylvania**, Exeter. He was putting his rifle back in its gun cabinet after returning from hunting when he leant over the weapon and it discharged.

**Birmingham Mail**, 10 September 2009

Three men from the **Birmingham** area have been charged with possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and possession of a prohibited weapon after police found a loaded **sawn-off shotgun** in a car.

**BBC**, 10 September 2009

Two men armed with what appeared to be a handgun robbed a bank in **Melbourne**, Derbyshire. No-one was injured.

**BBC**, 10 September 2009

A man from **Golders Green**, north London, faces a charge of possessing a prohibited firearm and ammunition as well as other charges after police searched thousands of safety deposit boxes. Two other directors of the same safety deposit box company also face various charges.

**BBC**, 10 September 2009

A firearm was seized during a series of raids by the police targeting an organised crime group. The raids were made on properties in **Luton** and **Leighton Buzzard** in Bedfordshire, **Bletchley** in Buckinghamshire and **Stevenage** in Hertfordshire.

**Worcester News**, 9 September 2009

A man drunkenly pointed an **air rifle** at his partner's chest and threatened to shoot her at their home in **Worcester**. Eric Steventon admitted making threats to kill. He was sentenced to 16 weeks in custody, suspended for two years, and ordered to carry out 60 hours unpaid work. An order was made for the forfeiture and destruction of the gun.

**Willesden & Brent Times**, 9 September 2009

A 19-year-old has been sentenced to two years after she hid a gun for a man whom she has refused to name. A 9mm revolver was found at the home of Jodie Collins in **Cricklewood**, north west London, in September 2008. She is one of 11 women who have been caught hiding a gun for a man in London since April 2008 (*Kilburn Times*, 2 October 2009).

**This is Gloucestershire**, 9 September 2009

A woman, who was walking her dog in **Cheltenham**, was hit in the leg by a pellet from what is believed to have been a **ball-bearing gun**.

**The Star**, 9 September 2009

A court has heard that a woman was shot at "point blank" range with a **double-barrelled shotgun** by her partner at their home in **Thorne**, South Yorkshire, in March 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). The victim was shot after a heated argument over money. The defendant stored a number of legally-owned weapons in a gun cabinet, but an earlier visitor had seen a shotgun propped up next to the hi-fi and witnessed the defendant running out into the garden to shoot a magpie. The witness is quoted as saying "He always sits on the settee with the gun at arm's reach away. The gun was loaded to pounce on a cat that had been coming into the garden". Derek Harriman has been found guilty of murder and been ordered to serve a minimum of 21 years in jail (*The Star*, 15 September 2009).

**Bexley Times**, 9 September 2009

Gary Oxley shot and killed a man at point blank range with a vintage .455 Webley revolver in a cafe in **Mottingham**, south London, in March 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). He has pleaded guilty to murder and possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life.

**BBC**, 9 September 2009

A man, the victim of what police have described as a "brutal execution-style murder", is believed to have been shot dead in a lay-by in **Clayton West**, Huddersfield in West Yorkshire. A post-mortem confirmed he had died from gunshot wounds (*BBC*, 10 September). A man has been charged with conspiracy to murder (*Yorkshire Evening Post*, 8 October 2009).

**Wandsworth Guardian**, 8 September 2009

Shots were fired after an alleged security van robbery in **Battersea**, south London. Police were unable to confirm whether anything was stolen.

**Hull Daily Mail**, 8 September 2009

A man has been cleared of involvement in an armed robbery at houses in **Beverley**, East Yorkshire, in January 2009. The owner has described how four men entered his home and one of them threatened him with a gun, saying he would shoot him. The men took £25 and a laptop. The victim was then marched at gunpoint to a neighbour where the gang gained entry and attacked the people inside. The men responsible remain at large.

**Derby Evening Telegraph**, 8 September 2009

A man walked into a newsagents in **Sandiacre**, Derbyshire, with a weapon described as a "**stun gun**" and demanded cash. He was given a small amount and ran off.

**BBC**, 8 September 2009

Ricardo Poli, 18, from **Timperley**, Cheshire, who has pleaded guilty to charges relating to capturing and assaulting two teenage boys has also admitted possessing a firearm after being stopped in a car with a **sawn-off shotgun** in May 2008. He was sentenced to three years for the firearms offences and a total of 16 months for the other offences.

**Telegraph**, 7 September 2009

A gang from **Parson Cross**, Sheffield, showed off guns and knives on social networking sites after some of its members were convicted for a teenager's murder. Police were able to use the photographs as evidence against four further members for firearms offences. Joe Brent-Mitchell and Jamie Howden, 18, were each jailed for four-and-a-half years after they posed with the same **shotgun**. Both admitted possessing a firearm after experts confirmed the weapon could not have been an imitation. Lewis Barker, 17, and David Faulkner was jailed for three years and two years, respectively, for possessing a **sawn-off shotgun** in an unrelated incident.

**Get Reading**, 7 September 2009

A man was robbed of cash during a robbery at a community centre in **Calcot**, Berkshire. Two men have been charged with robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm**. A third man was arrested and has been bailed.

**Chad**, 7 September 2009

A man from **Mansfield**, Nottinghamshire, has appeared in court charged with possession of an imitation firearm, a **BB gun**, with intent to cause fear of violence.

**BBC**, 7 September 2009

A man was threatened with his own **air rifle** when three men broke into his flat in **Leamington Spa**, Warwickshire. The men took the gun along with two DVD players and a small safe.

**BBC**, 7 September 2009

Police firearms officers went to a bowling alley in **Ipswich** after a report of a man wielding a handgun. A **BB gun** was seized and a 19-year-old has been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

**BBC**, 7 September 2009

A teenager was taken to hospital after being shot in the leg in a drive-by shooting in **Small Heath**, Birmingham. He was said to be in a stable condition.

**BBC**, 7 September 2009

A man who was shot in a street in **Hackney**, east London, has died in hospital. An 18-year-old and a 17-year-old have been accused of murder. Two other men were arrested and are currently on bail (*Epping Forest, Waltham Forest, Wanstead & Woodford Guardian*, 21 September 2009).

**BBC**, 7 September 2009

Two men have been charged with attempted murder after an incident in which a gun was fired in **Leicester**. No-one was injured in the incident.

***This is Local London***, 5 September 2009

A man was shot twice in the leg at an address on an estate in **Roehampton**, south west London. A group of people wielding a shotgun confronted the victim at his front door. His injuries were considered "not serious" according to the police.

***Evening Gazette***, 5 September 2009

Police have been granted a dispersal order in a bid to crack down on drunken gangs and vandalism in the **North Ormesby** and **Brambles Farm** areas of Middlesbrough. Among the incidents a **BB gun** has been fired at a car.

***Western Morning News***, 4 September 2009

A gunshot was fired through the letterbox at the home of a newspaper columnist near **Brushford**, Somerset. She was out at the time of the incident but a friend was at home. The owner had provoked criticism about her portrayal of local people in her columns and a book. A shotgun was used in the attack (*Daily Mail*, 7 September 2009).

***Hartlepool Mail***, 4 September 2009

Jamie Turner, 18, and Jonathan Weegram, 19, have each been fined £65 and had their **air rifle** destroyed after using it to shoot cans on wasteland in **Hartlepool** in August 2009. Both had previous convictions. They both admitted having a weapon in a public place.

***Get Reading***, 4 September 2009

A **replica blank-firing pistol** and a large quantity of drugs were discovered during a routine house call in **Lower Caversham**, Berkshire. No one has yet been arrested.

***The Citizen (Burnley)***, 4 September 2009

Shop assistants at a store in **Burnley**, Lancashire, were threatened by two men armed with a **double-barrelled shotgun** before £500 in cash was stolen. Two people have since been arrested, one of whom, a teenager, was still being questioned by police.

***Bury Times***, 4 September 2009

Two men burst into a bookmakers in **Bury**, Greater Manchester, pointed a **shotgun** at staff and demanded cash. After the cash was handed over they ran off.

***Birmingham Mail***, 4 September 2009

Four men have been jailed for between six and eight years for their part in a series of raids on stores in **Birmingham**, **Quinton**, **Handsworth** and **Hamstead** in the West Midlands between January and May 2008. One supermarket was raided three times and another twice. In each case the robbers were armed with a **stun gun**, hammers and knives. Jahmine Lee, Andrew Lee and Patrick Green pleaded guilty to conspiracy to rob. Nyah Williams was found guilty of robbery at a fast food restaurant in **Telford**, Shropshire, as were two other men Ojay Miller, 19, and Valtie Dixon who await sentencing.

**BBC**, 4 September 2009

Three men have been found guilty for their involvement in the kidnap and false imprisonment of two shopworkers for over a week at an address in **Plumstead**, south east London, whilst demanding a ransom of £75,000. The gang committed a violent robbery at a sports shop in **West London** in August 2008 and took the victims at gunpoint. Vergil Percival was found guilty of kidnap and one count of blackmail, Jason Goode of false imprisonment and Thijseen Johns-Elliot of false imprisonment and blackmail. Joseph Hadji, Ashanti Kumpati and Paul Wigan had already pleaded guilty to playing a role in the plot.

**BBC**, 4 September 2009

A man has been shot in a street in **Birmingham**. There are believed to have been two offenders who left the scene in a car which was involved in a minor collision. The victim was being treated in hospital where he remained in a stable condition. Two men have been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder (*BBC*, 8 September 2009).

**Tottenham, Wood Green & Edmonton Journal**, 3 September 2009

A man armed with a gun has threatened a number of people in streets in **Wood Green**, north London, and forced them to hand over their jewellery and wallets. At least three incidents have been reported. A man is due to appear in court charged with seven counts of robbery, one count of attempted robbery, and seven counts of possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent to commit a crime (*Haringey Independent*, 21 September 2009).

**Times & Star**, 3 September 2009

A teenager who is reported to have brandished a **replica firearm** has appeared in court charged with robbery after another teenager had her handbag stolen from her tent at a music festival near **Aspatria**, Cumbria. The man was one of eight arrested following an allegation of robbery.

**This is Surrey Today**, 3 September 2009

A **BB gun** or a slingshot may have been used in an attack which shattered the front door windows of a house in **Dorking**, Surrey. A teenager has been released on police bail in connection with two incidents of criminal damage in the area.

**This is Local London**, 3 September 2009

Daniel Odoi-Asare from **Pinner**, north west London, is due to be sentenced on two counts of robbery and two of possession of an imitation firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence. He had a **BB gun** when he stole a car and a sat nav in two separate incidents. He has been sentenced to six years in a detention centre (*Harrow Observer*, 10 September 2009).

**Streatham Guardian**, 3 September 2009

Residents on an estate in **Tulse Hill**, south London, have witnessed three shooting incidents in the past two months and have called for CCTV to crackdown on clashes between gangs. In January 2009 two teenagers were shot, one with a **shotgun**, and in the most recent incident a car sustained gunshot damage.

**Streatham Guardian**, 3 September 2009

A man has been shot dead at a house in **West Norwood**, south London. Police have launched a murder inquiry.

**Daily Echo**, 3 September 2009

Peter Batke pointed an imitation firearm at the owner of a store and post office in **Bearwood**, Dorset, when he stole over £200 from the till. Before the incident in January 2009 he had bought an orange **blank-firing pistol** from a local shop which he spray-painted black. The gun was found in the boot of his car. He has been sentenced to three years in jail.

**The Citizen (Burnley)**, 3 September 2009

**Imitation guns**, including replica Heckler and Koch MP5s and G35s have been confiscated by police who swooped on two shops and a market stall in **Burnley**, Lancashire. The police said that they could easily have been mistaken for genuine firearms and were removed by them using powers under the Violent Crime Reduction Act. The guns sold for between £5 and £20.

**Whitchurch Herald**, 2 September 2009

A man has been arrested on suspicion of assault occasioning actual bodily harm after a teenage girl was allegedly shot with an **air rifle** in **Whitchurch**, Shropshire. She heard a loud bang as she walked past two males. She suffered a puncture wound to her right forearm.

**Streatham Guardian**, 2 September 2009

A man was shot with a **BB gun** outside a nightclub in **Crystal Palace**, south London. Police were called after reports of a disturbance. The victim was taken to hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

**Guardian**, 2 September 2009

An **imitation firearm**, described as a 9mm machine gun that fires ball-bearings, was found in the bedroom of one of the two teenagers who are on trial for plotting to bomb a school in **Manchester**.

**BBC**, 2 September 2009

Craig Townend was one of two men who raided the home of a stamp dealer in **Torquay**, Devon, in July 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). The pair threatened the dealer and then tied him up together with his two sons before stealing £400,000 worth of stamps. He has been found guilty of armed robbery, possessing a firearm with intent to commit robbery and three charges of false imprisonment. His accomplice has not been found. Sentencing was adjourned. Townend, who had been jailed in 2000 for stealing paintings in **York** whilst armed with a **sawn-off shotgun**, was on parole at the time of the offence (*Guardian*, 3 September 2009). He has been given a life sentence and will serve at least 10 years (*BBC*, 16 September 2009).

**BBC**, 2 September 2009

A 16-year-old has been hurt in a shooting incident in **Bell Green**, Coventry. He was in a stable condition in hospital after being shot in the neck.

**BBC**, 2 September 2009

Two robbers armed with guns attempted to rob a restaurant at a service area at **Horton Cross**, Ilminster in Somerset. They threatened staff and demanded keys for the safe but left the restaurant when they were told that the staff did not have the keys.

**BBC**, 2 September 2009

A man has been shot and killed in **Luton**, Bedfordshire. He was found lying in a street with injuries to his head and later died in hospital. He was apparently trying to escape from his attackers when he was shot with a single bullet (*BBC*, 3 September 2009). It was been revealed that he was carrying out a drug deal when he was killed (*Independent*, 9 September 2009). A 17-year-old boy has been charged with murder (*BBC*, 14 September 2009).

**Sunday Sun**, 1 September 2009

Two intruders forced their way into a supermarket in **Benton**, Tyneside. They were armed with a machete and a **shotgun**. They grabbed some tills and made off from the store. Two men have been charged (*BBC*, 4 September 2009).

**Scunthorpe Telegraph**, 1 September 2009

Vandals have caused £450 damage to windows of a charity base in **Scunthorpe**, Humberside. The damage was inflicted with an **airgun**.

**Oxford Times**, 1 September 2009

A **ball bearing gun** was among items confiscated from away football supporters at **Oxford United's** home game with Forest Green Rovers. According to the police "the gun wasn't on display or being used so there wasn't a possession of an imitation firearm offence".

**BBC**, 1 September 2009

A 19-year-old man from **Blackbird Leys**, Oxford, was arrested after being seen brandishing the weapon at members of the public and was charged with possessing a **Taser-style weapon**.

**BBC**, 1 September 2009

A robber threatened his landlady in **Hove**, Sussex, with a gun before escaping with £200 in cash. The man is believed to have carried out five other armed robberies in Sussex, on newsagents and a bureau de change in **Brighton** (see [August 2009 Incidents](#)) and a clothing shop in **Haywards Heath**, and a victim was robbed in **Crawley**. Police found a **replica handgun** at the premises of the latest robbery. A man has been charged with six robberies (*BBC*, 2 September 2009).

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## SCOTLAND

**BBC**, 28 September 2009

Ian Holland admitted using a **stun gun** to beat his victim during a street robbery in **Glasgow** in September 2008. An accomplice stabbed the victim. Holland has been jailed for five-and-a-half years.

**Evening Times**, 25 September 2009

A gun is believed to have been found during dawn raids in **Cardonald**, Glasgow, in which £30,000 of drugs were seized.

**Ayrshire Post**, 25 September 2009

A man and a woman face charges in relation to an incident in **Ayr** where armed response units swooped after claims a man had a gun. The man was charged with possession of a firearm.

**Evening Times**, 24 September 2009

A woman travelled 200 miles to "harm" her estranged husband with a **toy gun** in June 2009. Police were alerted and she was detained at a bus station in **Glasgow**. Ann Gibson admitted to possession of an imitation firearm and a charge of possessing such an item with intent to commit assault. She is awaiting sentence. She had been jailed previously in 2006 for stalking her husband with another replica gun (*The Sun*, 24 September 2009).

**The Sun**, 23 September 2009

A man was shot in the chest and abdomen in his flat in **Pollok**, Glasgow. The victim has already survived three drive-by shootings and another attack in a park. His dog was shot dead in the attack. The victim's partner sustained minor injuries (*BBC*, 24 September 2009).

**Evening News**, 23 September 2009

Ramsay Scott from **Longniddry**, East Lothian, used his mother's credit card to buy prohibited weapons over the internet (see [December 2008 Incidents](#)). He has been jailed for nearly four years. Ramsay, who had represented Scotland in their under-19 shooting team, had pleaded guilty to eight charges.

**Cumnock Chronicle**, 23 September 2009

An armed police unit responded to calls from a resident in **Bellsbank**, Ayrshire, who had spotted three teenagers holding a gun. The weapon turned out to be a **plastic BB gun**.

**Paisley Daily Express**, 21 September 2009

Robert Murdoch has admitted conducting himself in a disorderly manner, entering a premises with an imitation firearm and placing staff and members of the public in a state of fear and alarm. He strolled into a pharmacy in **Paisley** with a **fake gun** in June 2009. He claimed he was so "out of it" through substance abuse at the time. He was jailed for 10 months.

**BBC**, 16 September 2009

Three men have escaped with thousands of pounds in cash after an armed robbery at a petrol station in **Braidwood**, South Lanarkshire. Two security guards were threatened by three men with what appeared to be a gun.

**Evening Times**, 15 September 2009

A woman, who has been forced to flee her home in **Scotstoun**, Glasgow, to escape drug-dealing thugs who were terrorising her family, has told how she found an **airgun** and samurai sword hidden in a communal cupboard on the landing. She claims the weapons were linked to her neighbours.

**BBC**, 14 September 2009

A gunman is being sought after the front door of a flat in **Dalkeith**, Midlothian, was shot at during the night. Nobody was hurt in the incident which is believed to have involved a **shotgun**.

**Ayrshire Post**, 11 September 2009

Mark Kernaghan raided the post office in **Dundonald**, Ayrshire, at gunpoint in August 2008 and stole £1240. He has admitted robbery and presenting an **imitation firearm**.

**Barrhead News**, 9 September 2009

Grant Finnigan shot a postman delivering mail to a street in **Barrhead**, Renfrewshire, in May 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). He has been jailed after pleading guilty to recklessly discharging an **air pistol** at another person and striking his victim on the head with ball bearings to his injury and also admitted he was in possession of an air pistol and had ball bearing for ammunition. He will serve three years nine months.

**Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser**, 9 September 2009

John McKenzie sparked a gun scare when he was on a drinking binge in **Airdrie**, Lanarkshire. He was seen with an **air pistol** on a train and in a taxi. On the train he was heard mumbling about shooting an ex-girlfriend and her new boyfriend by another passenger. He has been jailed for a total of 16 months after admitting two charges of possessing a firearm with intent to cause someone to believe that unlawful violence might be used.

**Dumbarton Reporter**, 8 September 2009

Police swooped on a farmhouse in **Renton**, West Dunbartonshire, after reports that a young woman was being held against her will and that the suspect may be in possession of a gun. No firearm was discovered, but a man has been charged with allegedly abducting a woman and assaulting a man.

**Ayrshire Post**, 4 September 2009

Gary Knox fired a **BB gun** at a 14-year-old boy in **Cumnock**, Ayrshire. He has admitted assaulting and injuring the boy in March 2009. The gun was not recovered because it didn't belong to him and was taken away by the owner.

**Greenock Telegraph**, 3 September 2009

Anthony Hampson from **Kilmacolm**, Renfrewshire, pointed an **airgun** at his chin and threatened to take his own life after being dumped by his girlfriend in May 2009. Riot police surrounded the house where he had armed himself with the rifle, CS gas and a machete which he used to smash furniture. He pleaded guilty to various offences including pointing the air rifle at himself.

**Paisley Daily Express**, 2 September 2009

A cache of **air weapons**, both rifles and pistols, were found during a police raid on a property in **Houston**, Renfrewshire. The raid is believed to be part of an ongoing operation by Lothian and Borders police.

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## WALES

**BBC**, 28 September 2009

A 10-year-old boy has died after he was shot with an airgun in **Llansamlet**, Swansea. The police are not treating the death as suspicious, but a 12-year-old is helping police inquiries. It was reported that he was shot in the chest with his father's **air pistol** during a game of cowboys and Indians (*Times*, 29 September 2009).

**Daily Post**, 25 September 2009

Three men who barged their way into a bungalow in **Rhyl**, Clwyd, terrorised a woman into handing over keys to a shotgun cabinet before making off with a **shotgun**, a gun licence and cartridges.

**North Wales Weekly News**, 24 September 2009

Two men armed with guns sparked a police search after being spotted in the **Bryn Euryn Nature Reserve**, Conwy. It is not known whether the guns were restricted firearms or **air rifles**. It is thought the men may have been hunting rabbits, birds and wildlife.

**South Wales Argus**, 17 September 2009

Grant Shea from **Bettws**, Newport, has pleaded guilty to being in possession of rimfire ammunition. The .22 live rounds were found after police went to his home to investigate an attempted break in. He was given a 12 month conditional discharge and fined £100.

**Daily Post**, 12 September 2009

A couple feared for their lives when a teenager held a **.22 air rifle** to their heads. David Edgerton, 19, put the gun to the cheek of a man and told him he would shoot him. The incident arose after he was released from custody for an offence involving the victim's car. Edgerton of **Leeswood**, Clwyd, admitted possessing his father's rifle with intent to cause fear of violence. He received two years youth custody.

**BBC**, 11 September 2009

Russell Carter has been found guilty of murdering his boss, whom he throttled, and trying to kill three other men in **Pontypool** in October 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He tied up and gagged his victims at gunpoint and threw petrol over them. He later claimed that the weapon was a **toy gun** (*South Wales Echo*, 12 September 2009). After the verdicts the jury was told that Carter had two convictions for previous violent armed incidents in the US, where he is in breach of parole, and of which authorities in the UK were not aware.

**South Wales Echo**, 7 September 2009

A school bus has been damaged and will cost £1,000 to repair after its windows were smashed in an **airgun** attack whilst it was parked at a rugby club in **Cardiff**.

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## INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

**This is Local London**, 29 September 2009

Two cat owners in **Epping**, Essex, have leafleted dozens of their neighbours after a double attack on their animals. One of their cats was shot with an **air rifle** and another of their cats had been poisoned. Their vet condemned the easy availability of air rifles.

**Runcorn & Widnes World**, 26 September 2009

Wild geese are being killed in gun attacks in **Widnes**, Cheshire. The latest victim was found covered in blood with part of its chest and beak blown away by a **shotgun**. The RSPCA report other birds being injured with **airguns**.

**This is Surrey Today**, 24 September 2009

A cat has undergone lifesaving surgery and has had her leg amputated after being shot with an **air rifle** in **South Nutfield**, Surrey. The pet was found lying in her owners' garden with her front leg shattered.

**Express & Star**, 23 September 2009

A swan was attacked by someone brandishing an **airgun** who shot it in the neck in **Bilston**, West Midlands. It was very ill when discovered and died after being rushed to the vets.

**Evening Star**, 23 September 2009

A cat was deliberately shot at point blank range in an **airgun** attack in **Hemingstone**, Suffolk. The pet has had to have her leg amputated. A vet discovered that she had been shot in the shoulder.

**Darlington & Stockton Times**, 18 September 2009

A protected peregrine falcon was found wounded on land near **Hornby Castle**, North Yorkshire. The bird had been shot with a **shotgun** and the pellets had caused infection and damage to the bird's flight muscles and tendons, leaving it incapable of flight. It was put to sleep.

**Daily Gazette**, 16 September 2009

A pensioner's cat was shot with an **airgun** through the chest and then used as a football in an attack in **Colchester**, Essex. His injuries were so severe he had to be put to sleep. His owner is waiting for the vet to provide him with a full report.

**Shields Gazette**, 14 September 2009

A rare kestrel has been shot in mid-flight by a **BB gun**. The bird was brought in a vets in **Hebburn**, Tyneside. It was concluded that it had been shot several days before it was found. It was treated but it was not possible to operate because of its frightened and fragile condition.

**Lincolnshire Echo**, 14 September 2009

A family cat had to be put down after being shot in the head with an **air rifle** in **South Clifton**, Lincolnshire. He was found by a neighbour bleeding from a wound near his ear. An x-ray revealed a pellet lodged in his brain.

**This is South Wales**, 12 September 2009

A cat shot in the back with a **pellet gun** in **Landore**, Swansea, may never walk again after the pellet damaged his spine.

**Skegness Standard**, 9 September 2009

A second cat has been injured in an **airgun** shooting in **Alford**, Lincolnshire. After almost two months of treatment for a suspected infection, an x-ray revealed a pellet which has now been removed from his bladder.

**Matlock Mercury**, 4 September 2009

A cat has died after being shot in the head with an **air weapon** from close range in **Crich**, Derbyshire. His condition deteriorated after being found and he died three hours later.



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