

# AIRGUN INCIDENTS

January 2008 – December 2008



Compiled by Gun Control Network

GCN compiles lists of gun incidents from media articles and reports. The following is a list of those incidents reported to have involved air weapons. We know that this doesn't include every offence committed in Great Britain but believe it provides an appropriate reflection of the seriousness of their role in crime and anti-social behaviour.

Among the aspects of airgun crime and misuse apparent from these incidents the following are particularly noteworthy:

- Young people and females are frequent victims in airgun shootings.
- Although a number of the incidents which lead to court cases do involve young men armed with airguns, the weapons are also being used by many older men to commit serious crimes.
- The incidents have a wide geographical distribution and, unlike some other gun crime which is concentrated in metropolitan areas, they affect communities across the country.
- Four people and a child died from gunshot wounds from an air weapon in 2008

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For all gun incidents visit GCN's website at [www.gun-control-network.org/](http://www.gun-control-network.org/)

## FATAL INJURIES

**Daily Post**, 12 December 2008

A coroner has recorded a verdict of suicide at the inquest into the death of a man who shot himself in the head with an **air rifle** in July 2008. The man was found in his van, parked and locked in **Wrexham**. He was found dead inside with his air rifle at his side.

**Manchester Evening News**, 8 December 2008 \* †

An 18-year-old is apparently fighting for her life after she was shot in the eye with an **air rifle** in **Bury**. The air rifle pellet appeared to have been fired through an eye and into her brain. A man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder but has since been released without charge. The girl died in hospital two weeks after the incident (*BBC*, 24 December 2008). Three men have been cleared of possessing of a firearm without a certificate (see [September 2009 Incidents](#)). A coroner has ruled that the death was accidental (see [November 2009 Incidents](#)).

**Burton Mail**, 4 November 2008

An alcoholic from **Swadlincote**, Derbyshire, who had threatened to kill himself with an **air rifle**, which the police duly seized but had to return to him, was able to use the weapon two months later to shoot himself fatally in the stomach in June 2008. The coroner recorded a verdict of suicide.

**BBC**, 2 October 2008 \*

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

**BBC**, 25 August 2008 \*

An 18-month-old boy is critically ill after being shot with an **airgun**, apparently by his five-year-old sister. In what the police have described as a 'tragic accident' the boy was shot in the head while playing in the garden of his home in **Washwood Heath**, Birmingham. It appears that the gun was left unattended by the children's father. The boy has since died in hospital (*BBC*, 1 September 2008). A man has been given a conditional discharge after pleading guilty to causing or allowing the death of his son (see [June 2009 Incidents](#)).

## OTHER INJURIES

A few of the incidents which are "also included in Court Cases" may have occurred before January 2008.

### ENGLAND

**Hemel Today**, 30 December 2008 †

A woman was shot in the stomach with an **airgun** on her doorstep in **Hemel Hempstead**, Hertfordshire. The attacker was a young man. She had been woken by the sound of banging on the window of her house. The victim had to spend hours in hospital after the attack.

**BBC**, 23 December 2008 \*†

A 17-year-old girl was shot in the leg with an **airgun** as she walked along a footpath near a play area in **Bedford**. The victim will need surgery on her lower leg to remove the pellet (*Luton Today*, 24 December 2008).

**This is Plymouth**, 18 December 2008 \*

A teenager was flown to hospital after he was apparently shot in the eye with an **air rifle** in **Looe**, Cornwall. Police said that initial reports suggested that his injury was "an accident as teenagers played in woodlands in the town". Police and prosecutors are considering criminal charges against three teenagers for firearms offences (*Evening Herald (Plymouth)*, 20 December 2008).

**Basingstoke Gazette**, 3 December 2008 \*

A teenager was shot in the hand with an **air rifle** by a group of boys in **Basingstoke**, Hampshire. The victim was walking with two friends at the time. The boys in the group with the air rifle are described as aged between 17 and 18.

**Sunderland Echo**, 29 November 2008

A man is in hospital after being shot with what is believed to have been an **airgun** pellet in **Sunderland**. His injuries were not believed to be life-threatening and his condition was described as stable.

**BBC**, 20 November 2008 \*†

A 9-year-old girl was shot with an **air pistol** as she left a primary school in the **Forest of Dean**, Gloucestershire. She was treated immediately and then went home. Although not thought to be seriously hurt she was very shocked. A 10-year-old boy has been arrested.

**Oxford Mail**, 19 November 2008 \*

A teenager is believed to have been shot with an **air pistol** when he was attacked by two men at the crematorium in **Barton**, Oxford. He has a fractured elbow and an eye injury which could have been caused by an air pistol. Two teenagers have been charged, one with causing grievous bodily harm with intent, possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear and dangerous driving and the other with causing grievous bodily harm with intent and possession of an offensive weapon (*Oxford Mail*, 20 November 2008).

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 19 November 2008 \* (also included in Court Cases)

Gary Blundred, 18, shot a 14-year-old boy in the face with an **air weapon** whilst they were fishing in **St James**, Northampton, in June 2008. He had the weapon with him to scare off wild fowl and had fired it parallel to the bank. The victim still has a metal pellet lodged in his skull. Blundred admitted wounding and was given 162 hours of community service and was ordered to pay £500 in compensation.

**Northumberland Gazette**, 17 November 2008

Police believe that a series of **airgun** attacks in Tyneside are linked. A man was hit on his hand in **Pelaw** and the police received a report of damage to windows in **Heworth**. Later a porch window in **Pelaw** was damaged.

**Evening Gazette**, 10 November 2008 \*

A boy aged 12 escaped serious injuries after being shot with an **air weapon** or **BB type gun** in **Thorntree**, Middlesbrough. He suffered reddening and bruising and a slight puncturing of the skin.

**Northumberland Gazette**, 9 November 2008 †

Three teenagers have been arrested after a woman was shot in the eye with an **airgun** pellet in **Sunderland**.

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 6 November 2008 † (also included in Court Cases)

Two teenagers, Ashley Matthews and John Moorhouse, have admitted assault after a woman was hit in the head by an **airgun** pellet in **Waterloo**, Huddersfield. They were ordered to do 150 hours and 200 hours unpaid work, respectively. Moorhouse was given a two-month compensation order.

**BBC**, 5 November 2008

A man was hit in the face with an **airgun** pellet in **Telford**, Shropshire. The victim is said to be in a comfortable condition in hospital after the pellet became lodged in his cheek. He also suffered swelling to the bridge of his nose.

**This is Bristol**, 30 October 2008 †

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

**Evening Telegraph (Peterborough)**, 29 October 2008 \*

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

**Worcester News**, 27 October 2008 †

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

**East Anglian Daily Times**, 24 October 2008 †

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

**Border Counties Advertiser**, 21 October 2008 \*

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

**Hounslow Chronicle**, 17 October 2008

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

**Birmingham Mail**, 14 October 2008 \*

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

**Lowestoft Journal**, 13 October 2008 \*

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

**Burnham-on-Sea.com**, 4 October 2008 \*

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

**Evening Chronicle**, 24 September 2008 \*†

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

**Weston & Somerset Mercury**, 22 September 2008

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

**BBC**, 22 September 2008 \*

A teenager was shot in the eye at close range with an **airgun** in **Leyland**, Lancashire. He remains in a stable condition in hospital. A 20-year-old is due to appear in court. He has been charged with possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life, wounding and offering to supply drugs. The victim has had to undergo risky surgery to remove the pellet but may still lose his eye in the future (*Lancashire Evening Post*, 4 October 2008).

***This is Wiltshire***, 19 September 2008 \* (also included in Court Cases)

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

***Daily Mail***, 5 September 2008 \*

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

***Bromsgrove Standard***, 1 September 2008 \*

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

***BBC***, 31 August 2008

A man was injured on the hand by an **airgun** pellet after shots were fired at a group outside a church in **Braunstone**, Leicester. Another person had clothing damaged.

***Sunderland Echo***, 30 August 2008

A garage worker in **Houghton**, County Durham, was injured when he was hit by a drive-by gunman armed with an **air rifle**.

***BBC***, 28 August 2008

Three men and a woman, three of them teenagers, have been arrested and weapons recovered after a cyclist was shot in the face with an **airgun** in **Eaton** near Norwich. The victim was taken to hospital with a facial injury. Police have said that the victim could have been fatally wounded (*Eastern Daily Press*, 29 August 2008).

***Gazette & Herald***, 26 August 2008 (also included in Court Cases)

Mark Hamblin, a former soldier, shot a friend who had come to a barbecue at his house in **Chippenham**, Wiltshire, in May 2008. He fired the pellet from an **air rifle** down the stairs of the house. He pleaded guilty to one count of unlawful wounding. He had taken possession of the gun from a youngster at the party who had been shooting it out of a landing window. The judge considered it had been a reckless accident and imposed a 24 week suspended jail sentence. The victim still has a pellet lodged in his skin.

***The Journal***, 24 August 2008 \*†

An 11-year-old girl may need surgery after being hit in the eye by a pellet fired from an **airgun** or **BB gun**. The girl was taken to hospital after the incident which occurred in **Blyth**, Northumberland. Police are speaking to an eight-year-old boy, believed to be a neighbour of the girl's family, in connection with the shooting. The victim must now have an operation and doctors have told her she may suffer permanent damage. Her iris has been torn, which is letting light in (*Evening Chronicle*, 29 August 2008).

**Fenland Citizen**, 20 August 2008 \*

A nine-year-old boy required almost 24-hours of hospital treatment after he was shot in the arm with an **air rifle**. He had climbed a tree in his back garden in **Wisbech**, Cambridgeshire, after he had heard people laughing and playing. The pellet was a matter of half an inch from going through his arm.

**Middleton Today**, 18 August 2008

A man taken by ambulance from an address in **Middleton**, West Yorkshire, underwent treatment in hospital after being hit by an **airgun** pellet. Hospital X-rays showed that the pellet, which was lodged in his stomach, had been filed down to make a point.

**Liverpool Echo**, 18 August 2008 \*

A 10-year-old boy is recovering after being shot in the head with an **air rifle** while he was playing with friends in a field in **St Helens**, Merseyside. Two teenagers have been arrested on suspicion of wounding (*BBC*, 20 August 2008).

**North West Evening Mail**, 8 August 2008 \* (also included in Court Cases)

A teenager who shot a 10-year-old boy in the ankle has admitted the shooting his victim with a G10 repeater **air pistol** in **Walney**, Cumbria. The gun has since been destroyed and the boy has been given a 12-month referral order, which requires him to agree and sign a contract with the youth offending team. He pleaded guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm and possession of an air rifle.

**Lowestoft Journal**, 8 August 2008 †

A woman was injured when she was struck in the head with what officers believe to have been an **airgun** pellet in **Lowestoft**, Suffolk. It is thought that someone was using an air rifle to warn off seagulls.

**Cambs Times**, 7 August 2008 \*

A 15-year-old boy has been shot at with an **airgun** in **Wisbech**. He was walking along a street when a car pulled up next to him and he felt something hit the top of his leg and saw a gun being pulled back into the car.

**Shropshire Star**, 5 August 2008

A man from **Broseley** is believed to have been shot with an **airgun** while in his garden. He was struck by a pellet but not seriously injured.

**Chorley Guardian**, 31 July 2008

A man has been shot with an **air rifle** while walking across a field in **Chorley**, Lancashire. The victim had a pellet embedded in his stomach and suffered minor injuries.

**BBC**, 17 July 2008 \*

A 16-year-old was taken to hospital with a pellet embedded in his forehead following an incident at a pub in **Eighton Banks**, Gateshead on Tyneside. Two men, aged 17 and 20, were questioned, but the police have concluded that the **airgun** was not deliberately discharged.

**Burton Mail**, 15 July 2008 †

A quad biker was hospitalised after being shot with an **air rifle** pellet in **Rolleston**, Staffordshire. The female victim suffered a wound three millimetres deep. The shot was fired from vegetation at the bottom of gardens at the back of houses. A man wearing a military styled jacket was seen acting suspiciously after the shooting. As part of their house to house enquiries police seized an air rifle, which will now be destroyed, however there is no suggestion that the weapon was used in the attack.

**Evening Telegraph (Northampton)**, 2 July 2008

Two 17-year-olds have been arrested after an incident involving an **airgun** in **Corby**. A cyclist was struck in the body with an airgun pellet causing him to swerve into the road.

**Loughborough Echo**, 19 June 2008

A council grass cutter was hospitalised after he was shot in the leg by an **air rifle** at a park in **Loughborough**, Leicestershire. He fell to the ground in pain and was carried back to the team van where a deep wound was discovered in his thigh. The pellet was buried six inches into his leg.

**Evening Post (Bristol)**, 19 June 2008

Six people were seriously hurt by **ball-bearing guns** and **airguns** across the **Avon and Somerset** police force area last year according to figures revealed by the Home Secretary.

**Camden New Journal**, 19 June 2008 †

A woman was shot in the head by an **airgun** sniper as she sat on a doorstep in **Camden**, north London. She believes she may have been targeted because she is homeless. Her canvas hat helped deflect the pellet which bruised her head.

**Pendle Today**, 11 June 2008 † (also included in Court Cases)

Police have arrested a man after two people were hit by **air rifle** pellets in separate incidents in **Barnoldswick**, Lancashire. The victims were a male cyclist and a female teenage pedestrian. The pellets had been fired from a house in the road. Ryan Kavanagh has appeared before magistrates and admitted two counts of assault by beating and one charge of discharging a firearm within 50 feet of a highway. He claimed he did not aim the weapon at anybody. He will be sentenced in August. Kavanagh was subject to a suspended jail sentence for assault and possessing a weapon (*Lancashire Telegraph*, 25 June 2008).

**This is Gloucestershire**, 2 June 2008 (also included in Court Cases)

A 17-year-old has been sentenced on 12 charges including four of common assault, one of assault causing actual bodily harm and three of using an **air rifle**. He sat in his family's home in **Gloucester** in March 2008 using the rifle to take potshots at members of the public. He hit a jogger, a postman, a builder and a motorcyclist. The jogger was hit in the back of the head and needed hospital treatment. He admitted that he bought the gun for £30 while drunk and had used it while under the influence of cannabis. He was ordered to complete 60 hours of community work over the coming year and to attend programmes or training at the request of the Probation Service.

**Birmingham Mail**, 27 May 2008

A man was shot in the eye by a gunman who fired through the window of a house in **Woodgate Valley**, Birmingham. The victim was found on the floor of the property and was in a "stable condition" in hospital. A man and a teenage woman have been arrested. The police said it was not clear whether the shot came from a **ball-bearing gun, air pistol** or a genuine firearm. A man has been charged with wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm (*BBC*, 28 May 2008).

**Evening Star**, 19 May 2008

Two youths spotted hiding in undergrowth shot two people with an **airgun** in Bunkers Hill, **Norwich**. The victims felt a stinging sensation and found they had been shot with airgun pellets.

**Mid Devon Star**, 18 May 2008 \*

A 12-year-old boy from **Ottery St Mary** was shot in the chest with an **air rifle** and had to be taken to hospital. He had been playing with the gun with a friend in a field when one of them discharged the weapon. Police have confirmed that the shooting was an accident.

**Southwark News**, 16 May 2008

A man was hospitalised after he was shot with an **air rifle** in **Rotherhithe**, south London. He had stopped at traffic lights when he was hit. He needed an operation to remove a pellet from his arm.

**Lancashire Telegraph**, 15 May 2008 \*

A 16-year-old boy was shot in the face as walked down the street in **Burnley**. A pellet, fired from what is believed to have been an **air weapon**, hit him in the cheek. The paper recalled another recent incident in which a woman was hit in the back with an airgun pellet fired from a passing car in **Edenfield** in March 2008.

**Evening Telegraph (Derby)**, 15 May 2008

A man was twice shot with an **airgun** as he walked beside a canal near **Ilkeston**. He felt the pellets sting his leg and alerted the police after pulling two pellets out of his shin.

**This is Gloucestershire**, 14 May 2008

A man firing shots from an **airgun** hit two people in a drive-by shooting in **Cheltenham**. The attack was believed to be the result of fighting between rival gangs. A man and a youth have been arrested (*BBC*, 15 May 2008). A third person has now been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder (*BBC*, 27 May 2008).

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 13 June 2008 †

A woman was shot in the leg as she and her partner walked their dog in **Bradley**. An **airgun** pellet embedded deep in her left leg just behind her knee, and surgeons fear that if it were removed there would be severe nerve damage. Two teenagers were seen nearby.

**BBC**, 9 June 2008 \*†

An 18-month-old girl was shot in the leg while out walking with her mother in **St Helens**, Merseyside. She was taken to hospital where it was confirmed that the injury was consistent with a pellet fired from an **airgun**.

**Yorkshire Post**, 25 April 2008 \*†

An 11-year-old girl was shot with an **airgun** while out playing with a friend in **Barnsley**. The pellet went through her jeans and into her skin.

**Crosby Herald**, 24 April 2008 \*

A 16-year-old was shot in the neck with an **air rifle** in a road in **Litherland**, Merseyside. He had gone out for to an ice-cream van with a friend. He was taken to hospital where he underwent a three-hour operation to remove the pellet which was embedded in his skull.

**Bakewell Today**, 24 April 2008 \*†

A girl was shot in the head with an **air rifle**, apparently fired inside a flat in **Bakewell**, Derbyshire. She was treated in hospital after pellets lodged in her head.

**Worksop Guardian**, 18 April 2008 †

Two teenagers have been arrested after they allegedly fired an **airgun** at cars on the forecourt of a garage in **Boston**, Lincolnshire. A woman who works at the garage was shot in the leg and was taken to hospital.

**Telegraph & Argus**, 15 April 2008 \*†

A 13-year-old walking with a friend in **Skipton**, North Yorkshire, sustained an injury to her leg and believes she was shot with an **air rifle**.

**Evening Telegraph (Derby)**, 31 March 2008 \*

A 15-year-old boy was shot in the face with an **airgun** while walking home from school in **Kilburn**, Derbyshire. A boy of the same age has been arrested and bailed.

**Mirror**, 27 March 2008

A fireman was hit in the back with a pellet from an **airgun** fired in an estate in **Hartlepool**.

**Birmingham Mail**, 27 March 2008 \*

A teenager has been shot in the leg with an **air rifle**. The attack took place near a brook in **Wombourne**, Staffordshire. The victim suffered minor injuries to his calf.

**Shropshire Star**, 20 March 2008

A man has been charged with possessing an **air rifle** in public after a drinker in a pub in **Ironbridge** was shot in the head. The shot was fired from a passing car.

**Sunday Mercury**, 16 March 2008 \*† (also included in Court Cases)

Simon Charity, 20, fired pellets from an **air rifle** from his bedroom window in **Sneinton**, Nottingham, and hit a pregnant woman and an 11-year-old boy. He has been sentenced to four years in youth custody.

**The Sentinel**, 15 March 2008 \* (also included in Court Cases)

A 14-year-old who was shot with an **air rifle** between the eyebrows by another teenager was very lucky not to be blinded. The pellet had to be removed in hospital. Jacob Sinclair, 18, from **Chesterton**, Staffordshire, had aimed the rifle at the boy as he was walking down a footpath. Sinclair had pleaded guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm. He will be sentenced at a later date.

**Herald Express**, 14 March 2008 \*†

An **air rifle** sniper shot two people, one a nine-year-old boy the other a woman, outside a leisure centre in **Newton Abbot**, Devon. The woman, a care support worker was shot as she helped students with learning difficulties into a waiting car. The boy was waiting to cross the road when he suffered what he described to police as a 'really bad sting' to his left upper arm. A third person later revealed that she too had fallen victim to a similar attack when she was hit in the back outside the leisure centre in December 2007 (*Herald Express*, 18 March 2008).

**Whitby Gazette**, 11 March 2008 †

A woman visitor was apparently shot with an **airgun** as she was walking along Lifeboat Quay in **Whitby**. She was not injured but was shocked. The shooting caused £60 of damage to the jacket she was wearing.

**This is Wiltshire**, 4 March 2008 \*

A 15-year-old was shot in the eye with an **airgun** pellet as he was walking with his girlfriend in **Calne**. He was allowed to return home after surgery in hospital.

**Birmingham Mail**, 27 February 2008 \*† (also included in Court Cases)

Matthew Oliver and Heather Rothan have been jailed for repeatedly shooting a 17-year-old girl by taking potshots at her with an **air rifle** on a towpath and then back at home in **Wolverhampton**. The victim was found to have 15 entry wounds when taken to hospital with 10 pellets still embedded in her skin. Oliver was jailed for five years, Rothan for two years.

**Evening Chronicle (Newcastle)**, 7 February 2008

A man is recovering in hospital after being shot in the stomach in his backyard in **Philadelphia**, Houghton-le-Spring. It is believed he was shot with an **air rifle**. A man has been arrested in connection with the shooting.

**The Citizen (Gloucestershire)**, 6 February 2008 \*

Two cousins were assaulted by a gang in the centre of **Gloucester**. One aged 17, alleges that a car pulled up and fired at him with an **air rifle** which left a hole in his coat. The other teenager, aged 16, says the gang was assaulted with baseball bats, bottles and a golf club.

**Lincolnshire Echo**, 24 January 2008 \*

Figures obtained by the paper reveal that the number of people injured by guns in **Lincolnshire** trebled over five years. Sixty people were injured in 2004/05 but 55 of the incidents involved **air rifles** and **BB guns**. The majority of the victims (56) were not seriously injured. Half of those wounded were children under 15.

**Great Yarmouth Mercury**, 23 January 2008 †

A woman from north **Yarmouth** was taken to hospital after sustaining an injury to her nose in what police established was an accident involving an **airgun**.

**BBC**, 15 January 2008

A man was being treated after being shot in the eye with an **airgun** in **Kirkby**, Merseyside. The shooting was believed to be a random attack. A man has been arrested and an air rifle recovered (*BBC*, 17 January 2008). The victim has been left blind in his left eye (*Liverpool Echo*, 18 January 2008).

**Wiltshire Times & Chippenham News**, 2 January 2008 \*

An apparent argument over a girl ended with a teenager being shot with an **air rifle** in **Calne**. An 18-year-old man was arrested on firearms offences.

## SCOTLAND

**Daily Record**, 30 October 2008

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

**Paisley Daily Express**, 4 October 2008 †

A woman needed medical attention after she was shot in the face by an **airgun pellet** in **Paisley**.

**Evening News**, 18 September 2008

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

**Press & Journal**, 10 September 2008 \*

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

**Daily Record**, 29 August 2008 †

Two men are being sought after a woman was shot with an **airgun** in **Sighthill**, Glasgow. She was hit on the hand and underwent surgery.

**Evening Times**, 12 August 2008 \*

A 9-year-old boy has become the latest victim of an **airgun** shooting. He was shot in the eye in a street in **Bridgeton**, Glasgow. He was taken to hospital for treatment but his condition is not known.

**Evening Times**, 4 June 2008 †

Two people were treated by paramedics after being shot and injured by **airgun** snipers in **Drumchapel**, Glasgow. Both had injuries to their arm, and one of them, a woman, was also injured in the head. Men were spotted by neighbours on land close by. Three men have been charged with firearms offences, assault and breach of the peace.

**BBC**, 4 June 2008 \* (also included in Court Cases)

Simon Anderson and Michael Brankine took turns to fire an **air rifle** from a flat window in **Dundee** after a drinking session in January 2008. A 14-year-old boy was shot in the head. They were each given 240 hours of community service. Brankine, who fired the pellet which hit the boy, was also ordered to pay £500 compensation. The two claimed they never intended to hurt anyone and were firing at lampposts, chimneys and a phone box.

**Scotsman**, 8 March 2008

A parking warden was shot with an **air rifle** in **Edinburgh's** New Town. He was ticketing cars when he was hit on the hand by a pellet.

**Kirkintilloch Herald**, 26 February 2008 \*

A 16-year-old boy was shot in the forehead in an **airgun** attack on open ground in Hillhead, **Kirkintilloch**. He was taken to hospital where doctors removed the pellet which was embedded just above his eye.

**Daily Record**, 12 February 2008 \*

A 16-year-old has been charged with petrol bomb attacks and shooting children with an **air rifle**. He is accused of shooting and wounding boys aged 13, 14 and 15 on a footpath in **Kilwinning**, Ayrshire. He also faces charges of illegally possessing an air rifle as well as a charge relating to the petrol bombs.

**Greenock Telegraph**, 23 January 2008 \*†

A 14-year-old girl was hit in the arm when an **airgun** sniper shot at her near Coves Reservoir in **Gourock**. Two teenage boys who were with her were also targeted but were unhurt.

## WALES

**BBC**, 2 December 2008

A shop assistant was shot with an **air rifle** during an attack at a store in **Cyncoed**, Cardiff.

**South Wales Echo**, 29 October 2008

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

**BBC**, 15 August 2008 †

A woman was shot in the back by an **air rifle** on a busy shopping street in **Llandrindod Wells**, Powys. The victim was being treated in hospital for her injuries which were not life-threatening. A man is being held by police.

## THREATENING BEHAVIOUR

### ENGLAND

**Westmorland Gazette**, 17 December 2008

Police are trying to trace the occupants of a car after an **air rifle** was fired from its window as it was driven around **Ingleton**, North Yorkshire. An airgun pellet was fired at a house window.

**BBC**, 24 November 2008

A man armed with an **air rifle** opened fire on police officers when they were called to an address in **Weymouth**, Dorset. A man has been arrested.

**Grantham Journal**, 13 November 2008

Armed police officers were called to a house in **Grantham**, Lincolnshire, following reports that a man was making threats with an **air rifle**. He was persuaded to give himself voluntarily and has been arrested on suspicion of assault not relating to the air rifle.

**Evening Star**, 4 November 2008

A man has been charged with threatening another with a firearm at a block of flats in **Ipswich**. It is believed that the weapon was an **air rifle**.

**Sunderland Echo**, 29 October 2008

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

**The Press**, 16 October 2008

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

**This is Cornwall**, 2 October 2008

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

**Mid Devon Star**, 2 October 2008

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

## Threatening Behaviour

### **Evening Telegraph (Derby)**, 25 September 2008

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

### **The Journal**, 14 September 2008

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

### **Shropshire Star**, 22 August 2008

Two youths suspected of firing an **airgun** from the window of a car being driven around **Pontesbury** and **Minsterley**, near Shrewsbury, were arrested on firearms offences after a three-car smash.

### **Wigan Evening Post**, 23 July 2008

Two Wigan men have been charged with firearm offences after two men were seen driving around **Newquay**, Cornwall, wielding an **air pistol**. The gun and a lock knife were seized when police stopped a car.

### **This is South Devon**, 19 July 2008

Armed police surrounded a property in **Teignmouth** after a man was reported to be firing shots from the address. No one was hurt in the stand-off which lasted two hours. It was confirmed that an **air rifle** was being fired at buildings in the area.

### **Banbury Guardian**, 15 July 2008

At the trial of a man from **Banbury**, Oxfordshire, who is charged with attempted murder and grievous bodily harm his former partner described how he had become violent and controlling, even threatening her with an **airgun**.

### **Citizen (Gloucestershire)**, 11 July 2008

Armed police stormed a home in **Newent** after a man allegedly threatened youths with an **air rifle**. A firearms warrant was executed at the cottage following the incident five days earlier. The police seized two firearms and arrested a man on suspicion of being in possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

### **Whitehaven News**, 9 July 2008

Warnings have gone out from police about the use of **air rifles** in and around the village of **Moresby Parks**, Cumbria, where two have already been seized. The police action was taken in response to concern from some members of the public about the use of air rifles and the associated risk to pet animals.

### **Batley News**, 9 July 2008

Six people were arrested after an **air pistol** was fired during an argument at a petrol station in **Batley**, West Yorkshire. Those arrested included three 15-year-old girls and a 17-year-old man.

## Threatening Behaviour

**Yorkshire Evening Post**, 23 May 2008

A man, armed with a high-powered **air rifle**, fired randomly into crowds at **Wakefield Market**. The gunman had earlier been in a row after he had scratched a coffee table belonging to a furniture trader. A man was been arrested and then released on bail pending further inquiries, but remains detained under the Mental Health Act, according to police.

**Northumberland Gazette**, 22 May 2008

A man has been arrested after an **airgun** was fired at a hospital in **Sunderland**. He was threatening to harm himself and fired at a wall in the accident and emergency department.

**BBC**, 9 May 2008

A man was arrested after armed police were called to the **Kingswood** area of Bristol after reports of a man wielding an **air rifle**. Officers sealed off several streets having received calls from members of the public.

**Evening News (Edinburgh)**, 6 May 2008

Police marksmen fired rubber bullets to end an armed siege at a flat in **Cotgrave**, Nottinghamshire. The man, allegedly armed with an **airgun**, was taken to hospital. Police had been called to reports of a disorder at the flat involving the man and another man and woman.

**BBC**, 5 May 2008

A man has been arrested after a police firearms team entered a house in **Ivybridge**, Devon, following reports a person was being threatened with a gun. A broken knife and an **air pistol** were found at the scene.

**BBC**, 21 April 2008

A train guard was threatened with a gun after refusing to let two men travel. They had been ejected from the train at Settle but returned with an **airgun** as the train arrived at **Horton in Ribblesdale**. One of the men pointed the weapon at the guard. Two men, one aged 18, have been arrested (*Lakeland Echo*, 29 April 2008).

**Swindon Advertiser**, 15 April 2008

Armed police officers stormed a house in the centre of **Swindon** and arrested four men after a firearms related incident. An **air rifle** has been recovered.

**BBC**, 11 April 2008

Five people, including four teenagers (two aged 14 and one 13) have been charged after members of the public were allegedly shot at in **Gloucester**. They were charged with possessing an **air weapon** in public after an imitation firearm was recovered.

**Birmingham Mail**, 31 March 2008

A schoolboy armed with an **air pistol** tried to rob another teenager on a bus between **Dudley** and **Sedgley**. The incident was recorded on CCTV and the boy was picked up by police at Wolverhampton bus station. The 16-year-old, who was on licence from prison at the time, has been given a 22-month detention and training order. He admitted attempted robbery and two charges of possessing an imitation firearm.

## Threatening Behaviour

### **Redditch Advertiser**, 25 March 2008

A teenager was grabbed around the throat and threatened with what appeared to be an **airgun** as he was leaving a park in **Church Hill**. He was approached by a male who had been with another group of males and a girl who ordered him to hand over his mobile phone. The phone was recovered nearby.

### **Watford Observer**, 21 March 2008

Police are asking for help in catching the perpetrator of an **air pistol** incident in **Watford** which occurred earlier in the month. A member of the public was threatened with the gun, and police suspect that the man responsible may have been involved in other incidents that day. The gun was later recovered.

### **inthenews**, 9 March 2008

An 18-year-old has been arrested on suspicion of threats to kill after an incident in **Shipham**, Somerset. Police negotiators and firearm units were deployed after officers were alerted with reports that a man in a house could harm himself. An **air weapon** was recovered from the property.

### **Hartlepool Mail**, 4 March 2008

A postbox in **Hartlepool** has been closed by Royal Mail after a postman was shot at with an **airgun**.

### **BBC**, 22 February 2008

A man has been arrested after armed police responded to reports of a woman being threatened with an **air rifle** in **Maryport**, Cumbria. A weapon was recovered but no shots were fired.

### **News & Star**, 11 February 2008

Police stopped a car in traffic in **Carlisle** and arrested four teenagers on suspicion of possessing airguns. The suspects were acting after reports that an air rifle barrel had been spotted pointing out of a car in **Dalston**, near the city. Two **air rifles** were seized by police.

### **The Star (Sheffield)**, 28 January 2008

A 17-year-old was arrested for possessing a firearm after two gangs clashed at **Chapelton** station in Sheffield. Armed officers were called after the police had staged a search of the train following the confrontation and found an **airgun** in a toilet.

### **Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 14 January 2008

A 16-year-old has been arrested in connection with an attempted armed robbery on a store in **Northampton**. Two people threatened the shopkeeper with an **air rifle** which was discharged into the air. Nothing was stolen and no-one was injured.

### **Swindon Advertiser**, 4 January 2008

A group of new age travellers camped on the edge of **Highworth**, Wiltshire, were subjected to an attack with what they believe was an **air rifle**. The shooting happened when they set up camp last month.

**Watford Observer**, 2 January 2008

Four men were arrested when armed police went to a stretch of canal in **Rickmansworth**, Hertfordshire, following reports of an assault. One man was arrested on suspicion of assault and possession of an **imitation firearm** in a public place and another was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm (an **air weapon**).

## SCOTLAND

**Press & Journal**, 31 December 2008

There has been a series of **airgun** shootings in **Aberdeen**. Three people, including two 17-year-olds, have been arrested. The shootings happened in Bridge of Don, in the city centre and at the beach and harbour areas. The pellets were fired from a vehicle.

**BBC**, 31 December 2008 \*

A man has appeared in court accused of possessing an **air weapon** in **Hawick** and causing a breach of the peace. He has been admonished and the air pistol confiscated (see [August 2009 Incidents](#)).

**Paisley Daily Express**, 4 October 2008

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

**Press & Journal**, 25 September 2008

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

**Largs & Millport Weekly News**, 13 August 2008

Police announced to **Fairlie** Community Council that there had been a charge of reckless conduct with a firearm in the Ayrshire village, confirming that it had been an **airgun** offence.

**Sunday Mail**, 30 March 2008

A man who was deported from Australia for threatening to kill a policeman has been arrested on an **airgun** charge after a raid on a hostel in **Inverness**.

**Scotsman**, 14 February 2008

A team, including a councillor who had come to speak to community workers about drugs and violence in the area, were taking a tour of a housing estate in **Airdrie**, Lanarkshire, when they came under fire from teenagers shooting **air rifles**. Police were analysing pellets in a bid to track down who fired the shots.

## Threatening Behaviour

**BBC**, 12 January 2008

A property was searched in **Easterhouse**, Glasgow, after reports that an **airgun** had been fired from a window.

## WALES

**Western Mail**, 12 June 2008

Two men and a woman were arrested on suspicion of firearms offences after armed police officers were called to a school in **Swansea**. Pupils getting off their school buses saw a man holding the gun in an area of parkland. A firearm was recovered near the scene. An 18-year-old has been charged with a firearm offence relating to an **air rifle**. The woman has been released without charge (*South Wales Evening Post*, 13 June 2008).

## SHOTS FIRED AT VEHICLES & TRAINS

### ENGLAND

#### ***This is Derbyshire***, 18 December 2008

A woman has told how she narrowly avoided being hit in the head after an **airgun** pellet was fired through a bus window. The bus was travelling down a street in **Chaddesden**, Derby, when the shot was fired. Glass smashed and an airgun pellet was found on the floor of the bus.

#### ***This is Leicestershire***, 8 December 2008

Two **airgun** attacks have taken place in as many days in a street in **Beaumont Leys**, Leicester. A man's car was shot at as he was driving and two days later a bus carrying elderly people was fired at. At least three passengers were badly shaken by the latter incident.

#### ***This is Cornwall***, 28 November 2008

A train windscreen was damaged when it was hit by a pellet fired from an **air rifle** near to **St Erth** station in Cornwall. A £1000 reward has been offered for information relating to the incident.

#### ***This is North Devon***, 31 October 2008

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

#### ***Lancashire Evening Post***, 27 September 2008

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

#### ***Gazette (Blackpool)***, 26 September 2008

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

#### ***Norwich Evening News***, 5 September 2008

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

#### ***The Citizen (Gloucestershire)***, 30 August 2008

A bus travelling through **Cinderford** was hit with an **air rifle** pellet which smashed through a window near the back of the vehicle. The bus was empty at the time of the incident.

**Eastern Daily Press**, 27 August 2008

A double-decker bus is believed to have been shot at as it travelled on the **Trowse** bypass in Norfolk. Early indications are that it was a weapon of some sort, a gun or an **airgun**.

**Clitheroe Advertiser and Times**, 6 August 2008

Homes and a car in the **Henthorn** area of Clitheroe, Lancashire, have been shot at with an **air rifle**.

**Lincolnshire Echo**, 17 July 2008

Armed police were called out after reports of an **air rifle** fired at a car in **Gainsborough**. No arrests were made.

**The Gazette (Blackpool)**, 15 July 2008

Shots have been fired at a tram in **Rossall**, Blackpool, on successive nights. In one of the **airgun** attacks an elderly couple were covered in shards of glass.

**Evening Chronicle**, 9 June 2008

A correspondent to the newspaper from **Winlaton**, Tyne & Wear, has described how he was shot at four or five times by two youths causing hundreds of pounds to his vehicle. He caught the two culprits and handed them over with the gun, presumably an **airgun**. The two were reprimanded by the police but no further action was taken. The victim has been left to claim through his car insurance for the damage.

**This is Hampshire**, 4 June 2008

A car was sprayed with shots while it was parked in a car park at a school in **Bassett**, Southampton. **Airgun** pellets were retrieved from the car. Police say the damage was so severe that they believe the rifle used is of high performance and illegal in the UK without a firearms certificate. They confirmed they had received a call to report someone seen using an air rifle. Although gun club members have questions whether an air rifle could have been responsible because of the severe damage, police chiefs have revealed that ballistic experts had been consulted and that it is highly likely that an air rifle was used (*This is Hampshire*, 16 June 2008).

**The Journal**, 26 May 2008

Police are investigating the possibility that youths fired an **air rifle** at a train on the Weardale Railway near **Frosterley** in County Durham. A woman was treated for shock after her carriage window was broken by a missile. The hole left in the window was caused either by an air rifle or a stone. Two youths were seen near the line at the time of the incident.

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 16 May 2008

A man was arrested at the end of a three-hour hunt for a gunman after an incident in **Netherton** in which a car and a door and a window of a house were damaged. Police officers are believed to have recovered an **air rifle** and a knife.

**Express & Echo**, 14 May 2008

A man leapt in front of a bus in **Exeter** and then shot at it with an **air pistol** after he had forced the driver to stop. A light close to the windscreen was shattered and the damage will cost about £750 to repair.

**Star (Sheffield)**, 8 May 2008

A woman has criticised police after they took an hour to respond to shots being fired outside her home in **Gleadless**, Sheffield. The shots were apparently fired by a gang of youths as she got in a car, one shattering her rear windscreen. It is believed that an **airgun** pellet was responsible.

**Daily Echo**, 6 May 2008

Vandals have been driving around **Bransgore**, Hampshire, firing **airgun** pellets at car windows. Fourteen vehicles have been shot at so far. The residents want police to take action.

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 12 April 2008

An **airgun** was fired at the rear window of a vehicle in **Flockton**. In another incident in **Flockton** an **air weapon** was fired at a house window.

**Evening Gazette (Middlesbrough)**, 11 April 2008

Two ambulances were hit by **airgun** shots while answering emergency calls in **Middlesbrough**.

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 22 February 2008

A sniper with an **airgun** is being sought after three incidents in the **Fartown** area of Huddersfield. In the first incident the rear window of a moving car was shattered, then a pedestrian heard a noise and saw several pellets embedded in a tree, and in the third incident a pellet broke a window at a house in **Sheepridge**.

**Evening Star (Suffolk)**, 11 February 2008

An airgun pellet was fired at a bus and shattered a window where a family were sitting. The incident happened at **Kesgrave**. A 14-year-old boy was arrested on suspicion of causing actual bodily harm and criminal damage. An **air rifle** was seized.

**Northern Echo**, 30 January 2008

A man shot at a car being driven by a couple close to the hamlet of **Low Worsall** in Cleveland. The woman described how a car had suddenly come up behind them and an arm came out of the rear window with something black in his hand. Seconds later the back window was hit. Police have no idea whether the gun was an **air weapon** or something more deadly.

**Skelmersdale Advertiser**, 24 January 2008

A 19-year-old who fired an **air rifle** pellet at a bus in the **Digmoor** area of Skelmersdale has been arrested and given a final warning. He was one of several people targeted during a campaign to clampdown on bus vandalism following a spate of incidents in recent weeks.

## SCOTLAND

**Scotsman**, 11 September 2008

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

**The Northern Scot**, 8 August 2008

A minibus used by elderly and disabled people has been vandalised in a suspected **air rifle** attack outside the home of one of the charity's volunteer drivers in **New Elgin**, Moray. The minibus was rendered unusable and resulted in a three-figure repair bill.

## WALES

**South Wales Echo**, 17 January 2008

A taxi driver narrowly escaped injury when someone took a potshot at his cab as he was driving between **Aberfan** and **Troedyrhiw**. He was showered in the shattered glass of the driver's window. He believes an **air rifle** was used.

## VANDALISM

### ENGLAND

**Shields Gazette**, 30 December 2008

A 15-year-old boy has been arrested on suspicion of firing an **air weapon** at car park signs out of the window of a car in **South Shields**, Tyneside. He was charged with having an air weapon in a public place.

**BBC**, 19 December 2008

Sussex Police have received two reports of an airship advertising a warehouse in **Ditching**, East Sussex, being shot at and have recovered **airgun** pellets. The owner said it cost £500 to repair and re-inflate it on each occasion. There have been complaints that the blimp was spoiling people's views.

**Westmorland Gazette**, 17 December 2008

Police are trying to trace the occupants of a car after an **air rifle** was fired from its window as it was driven around **Ingleton**, North Yorkshire. An airgun pellet was fired at a house window.

**Sunderland Echo**, 13 December 2008

An **air weapon** has been used to shoot at bulbs in lampposts in parks in **Seaham**, County Durham, leaving the council facing a repair bill of £5,750.

**Evening Courier**, 30 October 2008

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

**Daily Echo**, 20 October 2008

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

**Chad (Mansfield)**, 9 September 2008

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

**Burnham-On-Sea.com**, 6 September 2008

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

**Scarborough Evening News**, 27 August 2008

A hairdressers in **Scarborough** is thought to have been targeted by yobs firing **air rifles** after a hole appeared in its window. The owner described how there had been problems in the area before with people using pellet guns.

Vandalism

**Echo (Essex)**, 6 August 2008

A carer and the pensioner she looks after have had their home in **Canvey**, Essex, attacked for the third time in a year. After the latest attack she noticed a hole in the kitchen window which she believes was caused by a **BB gun** or **airgun**.

**Clitheroe Advertiser and Times**, 6 August 2008

Homes and a car in the **Henthorn** area of Clitheroe, Lancashire, have been shot at with an **air rifle**.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 4 August 2008

Shots have been fired at the windows of a home in **Abington**, Northampton. An **airgun** or **pellet gun** was used.

**This is Wiltshire**, 31 July 2008

The village of **Pewsey** has been plagued by a six-month spate of criminal damage caused by pellets from an **airgun** or **ball-bearing gun**. Windows and lights have been smashed and villagers are worried that it is only a matter of time before someone is injured.

**Oxford Mail**, 30 July 2008

Residents in homes in **Grove**, Oxfordshire, say yobs have plagued them with threatening behaviour for almost two years. Homes and gardens have been vandalised, bricks and eggs thrown and **airgun** shots fired at windows. The pensioner residents want a path rerouted around the outside of the site.

**Evening Chronicle**, 30 July 2008

An 18-year-old is claimed to have opened fire with an **air rifle** in **Slatyford**, Newcastle. A property was allegedly damaged. He has been charged with possession of a firearm.

**BBC**, 2 July 2008

A house in **Derby** was damaged after shots, apparently from a replica **airgun**, were fired. A window was smashed and a car was damaged during the incident. A man was arrested on suspicion of causing criminal damage.

**Lakeland Echo**, 28 June 2008

An **air pistol** was possibly used to cause damage to a new cafe on the promenade at **Morecambe**, Lancashire. A glass door was damaged and will cost £500 to repair. This was the third attack this year on new property on the seafront.

**Evening Gazette (Middlesbrough)**, 24 June 2008

The windows at the rugby club in **Guisborough** have been shattered by **airgun** pellets.

**Express & Star**, 18 June 2008

**Airgun**-wielding yobs have smashed shop windows in the village of **Tettenhall**, Wolverhampton, for the third time. Three teenage boys have been arrested and bailed on suspicion of criminal damage.

## Vandalism

### **Gloucestershire Echo**, 6 June 2008

A spate of shootings has been carried out in **Bishop's Cleeve**. Three **airgun** attacks have taken place in the past month. In the most recent incident two windows at the library were damaged. Earlier a man was seen pointing a weapon at passing vehicles, and two holes were made in a window of an estate agents.

### **This is Gloucestershire**, 5 June 2008

Lumps of rock and an **airgun** have been used to smash windows in the village hall in **Sedbury** for the fourth time this year.

### **Gloucestershire Echo**, 6 June 2008

A spate of shootings has been carried out in **Bishop's Cleeve**. Three **airgun** attacks have taken place in the past month. In the most recent incident two windows at the library were damaged. Earlier a man was seen pointing a weapon at passing vehicles, and two holes were made in a window of an estate agents.

### **Evening Chronicle (Newcastle)**, 5 June 2008

Police were called after families reported a house in a neighbourhood in **Gateshead** being peppered with **airgun** pellets. A local man was arrested.

### **Swindon Advertiser**, 31 May 2008

An **airgun** pellet forced a two-inch dent in the middle of a glass panel in an estate agent's window in the latest attack in **Swindon**.

### **Express & Star**, 29 May 2008

A glass pane at a bus stop in **Caldmore Green**, Walsall, was damaged by shots from an **air weapon**. Three teenagers were arrested. Two were released without charge and a third has been given bail pending further inquiries.

### **Swindon Advertiser**, 28 May 2008

**Air rifle** and **ball bearing** gunshots have been fired during several incidents in the **Stratton** area of Swindon. The shootings have been mainly at the windows of businesses and shop windows have been smashed.

### **Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 24 May 2008

A window was smashed with an **air rifle** at a business park in **Linthwaite**.

### **Wimbledon Guardian**, 15 May 2008

Video footage captured by a resident on an estate in **Epsom**, Surrey, who spotted a group of five youths racing around on motorbikes showed that one of them was armed. He was shooting at a derelict hospital and pointing a gun at houses, according to the resident. She said the weapon looked like a shotgun or a rifle, but thinks it may have been an **airgun**.

## Vandalism

**Gazette**, 12 May 2008

A spate of incidents has forced police in North Essex to warn people about using BB guns and airguns in public. Officers were called on five different occasions to reports of nuisance behaviour or criminal damage. In **Tiptree** a **ball-bearing gun** was fired at a garden, hitting someone standing inside. In **Colchester** someone was seen firing a **BB gun** into a fence beside a house but pellets were flying through the fence into a garden. Later a youth who was firing his **air pistol** out of a bedroom window in **Colchester** was "given advice" by police. It is thought he was aiming to hit birds. There was a similar nuisance report in **Clacton** as well as a report of criminal damage in the town that had been caused by an **airgun** pellet.

**This is Gloucestershire**, 7 May 2008

An engineer trying to restore power to more than 1000 homes in **Coleford**, Gloucestershire, had to abandon work after being shot with an **airgun**. The victim was left with a cut neck. A local man was later given a caution for assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

**Devon 24**, 23 April 2008

The Health and Safety Executive have been asked by the police to look into an incident in which an **airgun** pellet shattered an office window in **Barnstaple**. It is thought that the damage may have been caused by a ricochet whilst a pest control company was dealing with a pigeon problem.

**Weston & Somerset Mercury**, 17 April 2008

A family in **Portishead**, Somerset, who have been plagued by dog walkers throwing bags of dog faeces over the fence and into their garden have also had their kitchen window broken by what they believe to be an **airgun pellet**.

**This is Total Essex**, 10 April 2008

A couple in **Bocking** were awoken by the sound of breaking glass after their window was shot twice with an **air rifle**.

**Camden New Journal**, 3 April 2008

An optician's shop in **Hampstead**, north London, has been raided and sunglasses worth £15,000 stolen. It is thought that the thieves used an **airgun** to try and break windows.

**Evening Star**, 22 March 2008

A 19-year-old man was arrested for firing an **airgun** at a neighbour's window in **Ipswich**. Two shots were fired at a kitchen window. No-one was hurt.

**Ormskirk Advertiser**, 20 March 2008

A woman in **Lydiate**, Ormskirk, has described how a pellet was fired from an **air rifle** or **BB gun** at her living room window shattering the glass.

**Exmouth Journal**, 13 March 2008

The police were investigating damage to property in The Colony area of **Exmouth** thought to have been caused by **air rifle** pellets. Windows were broken.

Vandalism

**Harborough Mail**, 6 March 2008

Advertising hoardings at a sports ground in **Market Harborough**, Leicestershire, have been peppered with **airgun** pellets.

**The Gazette (Blackpool)**, 19 February 2008

Vandals have shot out the floodlights at the football ground of Blackpool Mechanics FC in **South Shore**. It has been assumed that the damage was done by someone with an **airgun**.

**The Star (Sheffield)**, 12 February 2008

Three teenagers aged 16, 15 and 13 have been arrested after a spate of catapult and **airgun** attacks which have caused a thousand pounds of damage in the village of **Platts Common** near Barnsley. The arrests were part of Operation Maximum Impact.

**Derbyshire Times**, 1 February 2008

A gang of youths using an **air rifle** smashed a window of a factory in **Renishaw**. Police were called by members of the local Safer Neighbourhood Team.

**Herald Express**, 7 January 2008

An **airgun** sniper who damaged windows at a shop, a house and a takeaway in **Totnes**, Devon, may have been responsible for damage at the Civic Hall where a second floor window has been cracked.

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 4 January 2008

Damage estimated at £5000 has been caused to new street lights in **Heysham** by vandals firing **air rifles**.

## SCOTLAND

**BBC**, 30 October 2008

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

**Daily Record**, 18 March 2008

A gunman shot out windows in three houses and a church with an **airgun** in **Alloa** and **Tullibody** in Clackmannanshire.

**Evening Express (Aberdeen)**, 19 January 2008

An **airgun** pellet may have caused almost £100 worth of damage to the window of a house in **Peterhead**.

Vandalism

**Barrhead News**, 17 January 2008

The paper has launched a campaign to rid the streets of **Barrhead** of **airguns** after a number of incidents in the town. Residents have claimed that a local shop is still selling **BB guns** to children under the age of 14.

**East Lothian Courier**, 11 January 2008

A children's play room window was fired at in one of two airgun attacks on homes in **North Berwick**. A high-powered **air rifle**, thought to be of .22 calibre, was used in the attacks. The properties appear to have been randomly targeted by the suspects who were possibly travelling in a car.

## WALES

**Glamorgan Gazette**, 9 October 2008

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

**South Wales Echo**, 28 June 2008

An **airgun** is believed to have damaged several windows in **Barry**.

**Cynon Valley Leader**, 22 May 2008

A former police officer has found himself the constant victim of vandals in **Cwmdare**, Mid Glamorgan. In the most recent incident more than £400 of damage was caused to a window by what police believe to be an **airgun**.

**South Wales Evening Post**, 28 February 2008

A villager in **Seven Sisters** in the Dulais Valley has reported that **air rifles** have regularly been fired at his property. He believed the attacks are part of an anti-English campaign.

**South Wales Evening Post**, 21 January 2008

A gun-toting youth has caused residents of **Gwendraeth**, Carmarthenshire, to fear for their safety after firing an **airgun** in a park. A bulb has been smashed after a shot was fired at a lamp post.

## OTHER INCIDENTS

### ENGLAND

**Sun**, 19 August 2008

Police swooped on a car in **Manchester** city centre after a CCTV camera had picked up a rifle on the passenger seat. Other weapons were then found in the boot. Police retrieved an AK47, a Desert Eagle self-loading pistol, a Glock 17 pistol, a revolver and an **air rifle**. A man was arrested and later charged with drink driving and bailed on firearms matters.

**Evening Chronicle (Newcastle)**, 18 June 2008

Four young men spotted by CCTV operators in **Consett**, County Durham, were arrested after drugs, an **air rifle** and ammunition for clay pigeon shooting were seized by police.

**Richmond & Twickenham Times**, 7 June 2008

Children were seen waving a gun around in a street in **Mortlake**, south west London. The gun, described by one witness as an AK47, turned out to be a toy **airgun**. The road has been plagued by antisocial youths.

**Evening Star**, 19 May 2008

Armed police officers arrested a man following reports of a man seen with a rifle in **Norwich**. A vehicle seen leaving the area was stopped and the man detained. An **air rifle** was recovered.

**Bracknell Forest Standard**, 21 April 2008

Three teenagers have been arrested after an **air rifle** and two **BB guns** were seized at a **Bracknell** house. They were tracked down after a member of the public called 999 to say he had seen three young men with guns near a skate park in **Chavey Down** near Ascot, Berkshire.

**Crawley Observer**, 14 March 2008

Police officers seized an **air rifle** from four men seen carrying the weapon in woods in **Tovil**, Kent. Two of the men were given a summons to court for possession of a firearm. In another incident in Kent a man had his **air rifle** confiscated and destroyed after being spotted shooting birds in **Gillingham**. He was firing the gun near a children's play area.

**Sunderland Echo**, 22 February 2008

Two men were arrested on farm land near **Easington Colliery** after a report that the pair had been seen discharging firearms. Two **air rifles** were seized and the men were arrested on suspicion of possession of a section one firearm without a certificate.

## SCOTLAND

*East Kilbride News*, 17 December 2008

A police helicopter was scrambled over **Westwood**, East Kilbride, after reports of two teenagers with a gun. A concerned resident had called after spotting two boys with what looked like an **airgun** or a **replica gun**. Nothing was found and officers decided to call off the hunt.

## THEFTS, RECOVERIES & HAND-INS

### ENGLAND

**Western Morning News**, 19 December 2008

Three people have been arrested outside a supermarket in **Newton Abbot**, Devon, after a search of their car revealed two **air rifles**, one of which with its barrel shortened. Two boys, aged 16 and 17, and a teenaged woman were arrested.

**Telegraph & Argus**, 16 December 2008

Police seized replica weapons and drugs during dawn raids on two adjoining properties in **Buttershaw**, Bradford, and a third property in the area. One person linked to the addresses will need to be questioned in relation to the seizure of replica firearms, an **air weapon** and a **replica handgun**, and other offensive weapons, according to the police.

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 6 December 2008

A small **air weapon** was stolen from the side of a farm building in **Clayton West**, West Yorkshire.

**BBC**, 8 November 2008

Three shotguns and an **air rifle** were stolen from a farm in **Trafford**, Greater Manchester, along with a number of valuable antiques.

**The Star**, 21 October 2008

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

**Mid Devon Star**, 18 October 2008

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

**Evening Chronicle (Newcastle)**, 30 August 2008

**Northumbria** Police and **Durham** Constabulary have confiscated a deadly haul of more than 1400 firearms in the last year. The haul included machine guns, military assault rifles, revolvers, sawn-off shotguns and thousands of rounds of ammunition. Northumbria Police revealed that 229 **air rifles** and 122 **air pistols** have been taken off the streets since April 2007. Full details are available in the article.

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 12 July 2008

An **airgun** was among items stolen from a portable cabin at a business park in **Paddock**.

**Evening Chronicle (Newcastle)**, 25 June 2008

Police officers who carried out a raid on a home following an arson attack on a car in **Leadgate**, near Consett in County Durham, found drugs and an **air rifle**. A man was arrested.

## Thefts, Recoveries & Hand-Ins

**Liverpool Daily Post**, 23 June 2008

Last year **air rifles, ball bearing guns** and several "unidentified firearms" were found at 10 **Cheshire** schools. Four out of every five times the county's police are called to a school to deal with a weapon, a gun is involved.

**Western Daily Press**, 24 May 2008

A man was arrested for drugs offences after a police raid on a house in **Burnham-on-Sea**, Somerset. Police found cannabis plants, cannabis and an **air rifle**.

**The Journal**, 23 May 2008

An **air rifle** and a stun gun were among a stash of weapons discovered as police raided a house in **Consett**, County Durham, searching for drugs.

**BBC**, 29 April 2008

The 19-year-old from **Westbury-on-Trym**, Bristol charged with terrorist offences has, among other offences, been accused of possessing a quantity of **airgun** pellets.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 9 April 2008

Burglars who raided two houses in **Northampton** stole **replica handguns** (a Desert Eagle replica and a Glock replica) and an **air rifle** (Walther competition airgun). A tin of pellets was also stolen.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 4 April 2008

A man and a woman were arrested following the discovery of a cannabis farm and an arsenal of weapons at an address in **Northampton**. The weapons including an 8mm self-loading **blank firing pistol** and a high powered **air rifle** and sight, as well as ammunition including a single rifle bullet, shotgun cartridges and ammunition for the blank firing gun.

**Willesden & Brent Times**, 14 March 2008

Two men have been arrested after police seized drugs, four **replica guns**, one **ball-bearing gun**, an **air rifle** and a number of other weapons during a dawn raid on a travellers' site in **Neasden**, north west London.

**Enfield Independent**, 29 February 2008

A man was tied up at gunpoint by a gang of five men who stole **air weapons** from his gun cabinet at his home in **Winchmore Hill**, North London. They forced their way into the house and forced him to hand over the key to the cabinet.

**The Herald (Plymouth)**, 28 February 2008

A **ball bearing gun** and an **air weapon** were seized from a property in **Camels Head**, Plymouth, during a raid on a suspected brothel. Four people were arrested.

**Telegraph & Argus (Bradford)**, 6 February 2008

A man has been arrested on firearms charges following a weapons seizure in **Mirfield**, West Yorkshire. Fourteen handguns, an amount of ammunition, two crossbows and an **air rifle** were recovered from an address following reports of a man brandishing a handgun.

**Evening Telegraph (Northampton)**, 19 January 2008

An **air rifle** was among items stolen during two burglaries from neighbouring business units on an industrial estate in **Wellingborough**.

**Swindon Advertiser**, 18 January 2008

Armed police raided an address in Pinehurst, **Swindon**, and found two **air rifles** and two **replica guns** which were surrendered to police. They were acting on information that guns were being stored there and believe that their removal has helped make Swindon's streets safer.

**Argus (Brighton)**, 9 January 2008

Armed burglars left behind their gun, a **.22 air rifle**, when they stole a scramble bike worth around £800 from a shed in the back garden of a house in **Portslade**.

## SCOTLAND

**Evening Express**, 23 September 2008

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

**BBC**, 14 March 2008

Lothian and Borders Police are destroying about 800 weapons handed in during the past six months. The cache includes shotguns, **air weapons**, **replica guns** and other **imitation weapons**.

## WALES

**Daily Post**, 3 September 2008

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

**South Wales Echo**, 28 June 2008

Two guns and a stash of expensive property have been stolen during a burglary in **Birchgrove**, Cardiff. The guns taken were a BSA **air rifle** and a Smith and Wesson pistol.

**Neath Guardian**, 12 June 2008

Two **air rifles** were among items stolen from a shed in **Neath**. One air rifle is a Falcon 19RS .22 calibre 8 shot including telescopic sights and silencer and rifle case. The other is an S 410 classic .22 10 shot including sights and silencer and case.

## Thefts, Recoveries & Hand-Ins

**Daily Post**, 28 May 2008

North Wales Police revealed officers have dealt with 83 criminal incidents involving **BB guns, air weapons** and **replica firearms** over the last 12 months, the latest involving a schoolboy carrying a BB gun. The newspaper has found that BB guns and airguns are readily available across North Wales and they were able to source a weapon for £5 within minutes in **Colwyn Bay**.

**South Wales Echo**, 2 April 2008

Would-be armed robbers are believed to have thrown away a large **air rifle** and a large kitchen knife into gardens after an attempted heist at a pub in **Cardiff**. A man and a 14-year-old boy have been arrested.

## COURT CASES

### ENGLAND

**Kent Online**, 23 December 2008

Jane Pentney of **Tonbridge**, Kent, tried to kill her teenage son by firing an **airgun** at his head in January 2008. His injuries were described as "not so great". She was "extremely intoxicated" when she decided to kill her two sons and then herself. She has been jailed indefinitely for public protection and will have to serve a minimum of three years.

**East Anglian Daily Times**, 20 December 2008

Taroo Westgate pointed a loaded **air rifle** at a bouncer at a nightclub in **Stowmarket**, Suffolk, in June 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He was fuelled with alcohol at the time and was in a rage after meeting up with his ex-girlfriend who worked at the club. He took the high velocity air rifle from his car after being restrained by the bouncer. He has been jailed for three years.

**The Citizen (Lancaster & Morecambe)**, 15 December 2008

Jonathon Dagger was in possession of a **.22 air rifle** which he was seen pointing a gun into the River Lune from a bridge in **Lancaster**. He was later seen trying to hide the gun in his jacket and was detained. A month earlier he had been involved in causing damage at a Morecambe church. He pleaded guilty to criminal damage and possessing a firearm in a public place. He was given an eight month prison sentence, suspended for two years, and ordered to do 120 hours unpaid work.

**Warrington Guardian**, 11 December 2008

Kyle Barnes was caught with a loaded pistol after a police chase in **Risley**, Warrington. The gun was found to be a close replica of a police Glock 17 pistol which had a metal object lodged inside to stop it from firing. There were three rounds of blank-firing ammunition. He said he had been asked to dispose of it by a person who had made threats to members of his family. Barnes had been given a reprimand in 2001 for possessing an **air weapon** and had spent time in a Young Offenders Institution. He pleaded guilty to possessing an **imitation firearm** and was handed a six-month suspended prison sentence and a 12-month supervision order.

**YourCanterbury.co.uk**, 3 December 2008 \*

Tristram Keen has been sentenced to 18 months in prison after he shot a girl in the eye with an **airgun** pellet. The incident happened in **Hersden**, Kent, in July 2007. His victim, now aged 12, has been left with a pellet lodged behind her eye socket and has lost the sight in the eye.

**Hertfordshire Mercury**, 3 December 2008

Antony Taylor, 15, from **Royston**, Hertfordshire, has been given a two-year anti-social behaviour order which prevents him, from other things, to be in possession of any **BB gun, soft air pellet gun** or **imitation weapon** in a public place.

**Yorkshire Evening Post**, 27 November 2008

Shaun Cockerham pointed an **air rifle** out of the bathroom window of his parents' home in **Castleford**, West Yorkshire, and fired at a neighbour and his 14-year-old son. The incident occurred in November 2007. The man was hit in the right side and a pellet went through his son's jeans but caused no injury. Cockerham was convicted of assault, attempted assault and possessing a firearm when he was prohibited from doing so. He has 35 previous convictions and has been jailed for three years.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 19 November 2008 \*

Gary Blundred, 18, shot a 14-year-old boy in the face with an **air weapon** whilst they were fishing in **St James**, Northampton, in June 2008. He had the weapon with him to scare off wild fowl and had fired it parallel to the bank. The victim still has a metal pellet lodged in his skull. Blundred admitted wounding and was given 162 hours of community service and was ordered to pay £500 in compensation.

**This is Plymouth**, 14 November 2008 \*

A 16-year-old has pleaded guilty to possession of an **air weapon** in a public place after police were called when a youth was seen with a gun heading towards a fast food restaurant in **Plymouth** in July 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). Police believe that an organised fight had been planned. It was claimed that the teenager did not own the gun which belonged to another youth who was carrying two knives and was also arrested. He has been given a six month referral order. The BB gun will be forfeited and destroyed.

**Mercury (Hertfordshire)**, 7 November 2008

Alan Parker ran outside with an **airgun** when he thought youngsters deliberately aimed fireworks at his home in **Hertford**. Armed police who closed the road outside his house to arrest him say they were responding to reports that a shotgun was involved. Four shotguns and cartridges from a gun cabinet were seized as well as the airgun.

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 6 November 2008 \*

Two teenagers, Ashley Matthews and John Moorhouse, have admitted assault after a woman was hit in the head by an **airgun** pellet in **Waterloo**, Huddersfield. They were ordered to do 150 hours and 200 hours unpaid work, respectively. Moorhouse was given a two-month compensation order.

**The Citizen (Burnley)**, 2 November 2008

Daniel McLaughlin has been jailed after "charging" outside his house in **Nelson**, Lancashire, with a loaded **airgun** and a Samurai sword after getting angry at a youth in September 2008. Residents, one of them feared for his life, alerted police. McLaughlin admitted possessing a loaded air weapon in public and possessing an offensive weapon. He was jailed for 44 weeks.

**Suffolk Free Press**, 30 October 2008

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

***This is Kent***, 29 October 2008 \*

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

***Leyland Guardian***, 29 October 2008

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

***Manchester Evening News***, 21 October 2008

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

***Evening Chronicle***, 17 October 2008

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

***Swindon Advertiser***, 16 October 2008

Stacey Thompson of **Penhill**, Swindon, has admitted having an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. She had an **air pistol** with intent to cause another woman to fear unlawful violence in May 2008. She has been warned to expect a prison sentence and was subsequently sent to prison for one year (*This is Wiltshire*, 24 November 2008).

***The News (Portsmouth)***, 10 October 2008

Jason Lewis faces a lengthy jail term for threatening a man with a gun and possessing a haul of cocaine and amphetamines. He had confronted a man in a lay-by in **Gosport**, Hampshire, in September 2007. He showed the man the handle of a gun which was tucked into his trousers. Lewis admitted threatening him with an **airgun**. The judge, who took into account the fact that Lewis had spent 144 days behind bars on remand, imposed a 12-month prison sentence suspended for two years (*The News*, 8 January 2009).

***Evening Star***, 10 October 2008

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

***Lancashire Evening Post***, 7 October 2008

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

**Yorkshire Evening Post**, 3 October 2008

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

**Evening Courier**, 2 October 2008

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

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 24 September 2008

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

**The Argus (Brighton)**, 22 September 2008

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

**Northern Echo**, 20 September 2008

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

**This is Wiltshire**, 19 September 2008 \*

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

***This is Wiltshire***, 16 September 2008

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

***Telegraph & Argus***, 16 September 2008 \*

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

***Gazette***, 11 September 2008

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

***Lynn News***, 5 September 2008

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

***Liverpool Echo***, 30 August 2008 \*

Jude Fursland, 18, was caught with a semi-automatic pistol and £18000 worth of drugs in his mother's house in **Woolton**, Merseyside. An **air rifle** and a haul of knives were also uncovered. After admitting one count of possessing a firearm, and two further charges of possessing class A drugs with intent to supply, he has been sent to a young offenders' institute for six years.

***Bath Chronicle***, 29 August 2008

Duane Smith yelled at a pregnant woman and her boyfriend "I'm going to blow your head off" as he wielded an **air rifle** in **Peasedown St John**, Somerset. He told the couple to turn around if they didn't believe he had a gun, before running. He then fired the gun in the direction of a car but was spotted by the police and arrested. He told one of the officers he would shoot him when he saw him next. He has been jailed for two-and-a-half years.

***Evening Star***, 28 August 2008 \*

Two 16-year-olds who took part in a "gang raid" at a house in **Ipswich** in April 2008 during which an **air pistol** was fired have been sentenced to periods of detention. One who admitted robbery was sentenced to a 12 month detention and training order and the other who was found guilty of robbery was sentenced to an 18 month detention and training order. Another youth, aged 17, had already been given a three year custodial sentence for his part in the robbery.

**Gazette & Herald**, 26 August 2008

Mark Hamblin, a former soldier, shot a friend who had come to a barbecue at his house in **Chippenham**, Wiltshire, in May 2008. He fired the pellet from an **air rifle** down the stairs of the house. He pleaded guilty to one count of unlawful wounding. He had taken possession of the gun from a youngster at the party who had been shooting it out of a landing window. The judge considered it had been a reckless accident and imposed a 24 week suspended jail sentence. The victim still has a pellet lodged in his skin.

**The Star**, 13 August 2008

The Criminal Appeal Court has reduced the sentence of Darren Kelly from nine months for four. Kelly shot and injured a 14-year-old from **Doncaster**, South Yorkshire, with a **gas-powered airgun** in 2007. The teenager had to undergo surgery to remove a pellet which had lodged beneath his skin. Kelly had been jailed after pleading guilty to wounding. The victim's mother is furious about the cut in sentence and plans to contact her MP.

**Telegraph**, 8 August 2008

Paul Peccioli, a former Tory councillor, became possessive and overbearing and "reacted badly" when a woman told him she thought they should stop seeing each other. He banged his head against a wall then held up an **airgun** and told her he would "deck her if she was a man". He slapped her legs and threatened to take an overdose. A few days later he chased after her and two colleagues in his car after she escaped from her home in **Ullesthorne**, Leicestershire. Peccioli pleaded guilty to putting a person in fear of violence by harassment and has been given a 12-month suspended prison sentence and a restraining order.

**North West Evening Mail**, 8 August 2008 \*

A teenager who shot a 10-year-old boy in the ankle has admitted the shooting his victim with a G10 repeater **air pistol** in **Walney**, Cumbria. The gun has since been destroyed and the boy has been given a 12-month referral order, which requires him to agree and sign a contract with the youth offending team. He pleaded guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm and possession of an air rifle.

**Whitehaven News**, 6 August 2008

A father who bought his 12-year-old son an **air pistol** has been fined £100. Anthony Wilson from **Egremont**, Cumbria, is banned from owning a firearm for life and was technically the gun's owner when it was found by police in February 2008. He admitted the offence. A boy of 12 cannot own the gun; some degree of possession and control must remain with the person who bought it, according to the prosecution. Wilson received a firearms ban when he was sentenced to five years' custody for a drugs offence.

**BBC**, 30 July 2008

Stanley Wilkinson and Simon Dawber have been sentenced to 8 years and 10 years in prison, respectively. Both men had previously been sentenced to 11 years for drug offences in Tayside, Scotland. The latest sentences follow a police raid in which guns (a sawn off shotgun and a converted **air rifle** and ammunition), heroin, amphetamine and ammunition were found in a lock-up garage in **Wigan**, Greater Manchester, in 2006. Dawber pleaded guilty to three firearm offences as drug offences. Wilkinson pleaded guilty to drug offences.

**Somerset County Gazette**, 26 July 2008

Henry Hayes was ejected from a hotel in **Dunster**, went home and picked up an **air weapon**. He was then seen holding the weapon up to his head as he crossed a road. He was arrested later after he had been persuaded to leave the gun at a friend's house. He pleaded guilty to carrying an air weapon in public. The case has been adjourned for a pre-sentence report.

**Herald Express**, 26 July 2008

John Loud, a 90-year-old RAF veteran from **Shaldon**, Devon, has pleaded guilty to possessing a **.22 air rifle** without the required firearms certificate in February 2008. He also pleaded guilty to possessing 13 .22 rimfire cartridges without a firearms certificate. In mitigation it was stated that Loud had always been interested in guns and that when he was a child "guns weren't taken as seriously as they are today". He was given a 12-month conditional discharge. The magistrates ordered the forfeiture and destruction of the firearm and ammunition.

**Evening Herald (Plymouth)**, 7 July 2008

Five men have pleaded guilty to common assault, and one of them has also pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent and to attempting to intimidate a witness. The men burst into a home in **Plymouth** and viciously attacked a middle-aged man and his stepson. They also threatened to petrol-bomb the house. Curtis Peacock returned several months later in December 2007 and shot at the house repeatedly with an **airgun** in a bid to terrify the victim into dropping charges. Peacock was given two 16-month terms in a young offenders' institution for the firearms and witness intimidation offences plus two months for assault. The other men were also given custodial sentences.

**Gloucestershire Echo**, 5 July 2008 \*

Joseph Rose, 19, has been fined £250 and given 80 hours' community service after pleading guilty to brandishing an **air rifle** in public. He was spotted by police carrying the gun along a street in **Cheltenham**. He was seen to cock the empty gun and fire it four times. At the time of the incident he was under a community order after being convicted for his part in handling stolen property.

**Wakefield Express**, 25 June 2008

Nigel Tolley from **Portobello**, Leeds, has been jailed for eight months for keeping firearms while banned. When police searched his home they found three **air rifles** and an **air pistol** despite his being barred after receiving a jail sentence. He did not think that the bar covered air weapons.

**This is Grimsby**, 25 June 2008

A market trader, John Goodhand, showed "arrogant disregard for the law" when he sold firearms on his stalls. He admitted three offences of possessing firearms while banned in June and July last year. He was banned for life from possessing firearms or imitation firearms but he was found with a **ball bearing gun** and an **imitation gun** in his vehicle, **air rifles** were found in the boot and other **air rifles** and **air pistols** were found in his home in **Cleethorpes**. He has been given a six-month suspended prison sentence and must do 100 hours' unpaid work. The firearms will be destroyed.

**Lancashire Telegraph**, 17 June 2008

John Clark of **Padiham** pointed a gun in his mother's face and threatened to shoot her. He struck her in the mouth with the butt of the **air rifle**, took her bank card and withdrew about £200. He admitted the assault and has been given 120 days in prison, suspended for 18 months, with 18 months supervision and ordered to take a substance-related offending programme. The prosecutor said "It's worrying that somebody can have possession of an air rifle and behave like that towards somebody when in drink" (*Lancashire Telegraph*, 11 July 2008).

**Mid Cheshire Chronicle**, 12 June 2008 \*

A 17-year-old has been fined £208 for firing **airgun** pellets into a neighbour's garden in **Winsford**. He admitted firing an air weapon in a public place. He started shooting at birds, and ten or 11 pellets rebounded off a tree and into the neighbouring garden.

**The Citizen (Gloucester)**, 12 June 2008

Darren Ring from **Stonehouse** has been bailed after he admitted possessing an **air rifle** with intent to cause fear. He pleaded guilty to having the .177 firearm with intent to cause people to fear that unlawful violence would be used against them. He has been jailed for 10 months (*The Citizen (Gloucester)*, 31 July 2008).

**Pendle Today**, 11 June 2008

Police have arrested a man after two people were hit by **air rifle** pellets in separate incidents in **Barnoldswick**, Lancashire. The victims were a male cyclist and a female teenage pedestrian. The pellets had been fired from a house in the road. Ryan Kavanagh has appeared before magistrates and admitted two counts of assault by beating and one charge of discharging a firearm within 50 feet of a highway. He claimed he did not aim the weapon at anybody. He will be sentenced in August. Kavanagh was subject to a suspended jail sentence for assault and possessing a weapon (*Lancashire Telegraph*, 25 June 2008).

**Pendle Today**, 5 June 2008

Dean Kendall has admitted trespassing on land with a firearm and possessing a loaded **air rifle** in a public place, a tow path at **Salterforth**, Lancashire. He has been bailed for pre-sentence reports.

**This is Gloucestershire**, 2 June 2008 \*

A 17-year-old has been sentenced on 12 charges including four of common assault, one of assault causing actual bodily harm and three of using an **air rifle**. He sat in his family's home in **Gloucester** in March 2008 using the rifle to take potshots at members of the public. He hit a jogger, a postman, a builder and a motorcyclist. The jogger was hit in the back of the head and needed hospital treatment. He admitted that he bought the gun for £30 while drunk and had used it while under the influence of cannabis. He was ordered to complete 60 hours of community work over the coming year and to attend programmes or training at the request of the Probation Service.

**Evening Courier**, 23 May 2008 \*

Eighteen-year-old Bobby Lee Maguirre has been jailed for 12 weeks after police found him riding a stolen mini-moto while armed with a stolen **air rifle**. The bike and gun were found hours after they had been taken in a raid in **Halifax** in April 2008.

**Express & Star**, 20 May 2008

A market trader had 23 **soft air pistols** at a stall in **Walsall** and further checks revealed he had three more at home. The man was also found with a **.22 air rifle** at his pitch when police swooped in March 2008. Harbjan Singh pleaded guilty to charges of possessing imitation firearms and air weapon in public places. He was sentenced to 120 hours community work.

**Manchester Evening News**, 15 May 2008

Peter Hanley has pleaded guilty to unlawful wounding. He shot a woman in the neck with an **air rifle** at a petrol station in **Bury** in November 2007 (see [Incidents](#)).

**Argus Lite**, 9 May 2008 \*

Three 19-year-olds who targeted victims in the centre of **Brighton** whilst armed with an **air pistol** have all received custodial sentences. They had been drinking and taking drugs when they picked on people and stole a mobile phone and £10 before being caught by police in December 2007. Dane Moulard and Luke Wells were both sentenced to three years and four months, Gareth Buss received a three year sentence.

**Daily Echo**, 30 April 2008

Gareth McCarthy fired an **air rifle** pellet into a young woman's eye while he was fooling around with the weapon in **Portland**, Dorset, in October 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). The victim was visiting the McCarthy's girlfriend at the time and is still receiving treatment for her eye. McCarthy pleaded guilty to a charge of possessing an El Gamo 5.5mm calibre air rifle and a charge of possessing ammunition less than five years after his release from a young offender institution. He was given a two year suspended sentence with a curfew.

**Halesowen News**, 28 April 2008

Martin Cowley from **Oldbury**, West Midlands, fired a powerful **air rifle** at his father-in-law after a drunken argument with his wife. He had been drinking heavily at the time and followed his wife and son to his father-in-law's home armed with a .22 air rifle. Cowley sent a pellet into a window frame. He has been given a 12 month jail term suspended for two years.

**The Sentinel (Stoke-on-Trent)**, 19 April 2008 \*

Four teenagers attending a party in **Alsagers Bank** in August 2007 took a rifle and an **air rifle** from the house, which belonged to the parents of one of them, Charlotte Clowry, 18. They drove in a car and fired the weapons in a wood. They then took the guns to **Audley** Community Centre. Kyle Williams, 19, said all of them had a shot but the others denied firing either weapon. The rifle was returned (100 rounds of ammunition were missing) but the air rifle, which had been used to shoot at a pigeon, tin cans, trees and a glass bottle, was never recovered. All four defendants pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm without a certificate, and Williams and Clowry also pleaded guilty to possessing an air weapon in a public place. Clowry, Williams and Phillip Adams, 19, all received suspended sentences in a young offenders' institution, and unpaid work. Nathan Moss, 16, was given 12 months' supervision.

**Warrington Guardian**, 14 April 2008

Antony Peers, 21, who was seen brandishing an **air rifle** in a park in **Culcheth**, Cheshire, in November 2007, has been given a 12 month community order. He had approached two women and began to swear at them. The women then saw him fire the gun and alerted the police.

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 8 April 2008

A teenager was shot in the face with an **air rifle** seconds after his girlfriend told the gunman not to aim at them as they were walking home in **Ribbleton**, Preston, in August 2007. He was fortunate not to lose his sight. The gunman, Jamie Murphy, has pleaded guilty to a charge of unlawful wounding. His defence claimed he was aiming at chimney pots as well as a tin can. Murphy was sentenced to six months in a young offenders institution, suspended for 18 months, and placed on a four month night time curfew. Four days after the court case the teenage victim was stabbed and left in a pool of blood after an alleged robbery in **Ribbleton** (*Lancashire Evening Post*, 15 April 2008).

**The Star (Sheffield)**, 4 April 2008

Gary Hamilton used a gun to threaten his partner during an attack in a house in **Wheatley Hills**, Doncaster, which landed her in hospital. Hamilton pleaded guilty to the assault and was placed under supervision for 12 months. He has had the **air rifle** confiscated. His partner wrote to the judge pleading for him not to be jailed.

**Suffolk Free Press**, 3 April 2008

Andrew Browning from **Sudbury**, Suffolk, has been jailed for two years after ignoring a life-time ban on carrying a gun and breaking his wife's arm with a saucepan. Police officers had found an **air rifle** when they searched his home. He was jailed for three years in 1991 for attempted robbery and possession of an **imitation firearm**.

**Birmingham Mail**, 31 March 2008 \*

A schoolboy armed with an **air pistol** tried to rob another teenager on a bus between **Dudley** and **Sedgley**. The incident was recorded on CCTV and the boy was picked up by police at Wolverhampton bus station. The 16-year-old, who was on licence from prison at the time, has been given a 22-month detention and training order. He admitted attempted robbery and two charges of possessing an imitation firearm.

**Sheffield Telegraph**, 25 March 2008 \*

Samuel Sorsby, 20, turned up outside the **High Green** home of a 14-year-old girl he had dated for just a week or two armed with an **air rifle** and a sword. He was drunk and threatened to slit her throat and burn her house down. He was tackled by neighbours. He pleaded guilty to one count of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He was given a 12-month sentence in a young offenders' institute.

**Lancashire Telegraph**, 17 March 2008

Adrian Bird admitted his part in a street melee in **Bacup** in which a girl was hit by a pellet from an **air pistol**. He admitted affray and possessing a firearm when prohibited. He was given six months in jail, suspended for 12 months, with supervision and 200 hours unpaid work.

**Sunday Mercury**, 16 March 2008 \*

Simon Charity, 20, fired pellets from an **air rifle** from his bedroom window in **Sneinton**, Nottingham, and hit a pregnant woman and an 11-year-old boy. He has been sentenced to four years in youth custody.

**The Sentinel**, 15 March 2008 \*

A 14-year-old who was shot with an **air rifle** between the eyebrows by another teenager was very lucky not to be blinded. The pellet had to be removed in hospital. Jacob Sinclair, 18, from **Chesterton**, Staffordshire, had aimed the rifle at the boy as he was walking down a footpath. Sinclair had pleaded guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm. He will be sentenced at a later date.

**Birmingham Mail**, 6 March 2008

David Bowater has admitted producing cannabis, possessing the drug and possessing an **air rifle** without holding a firearms certificate at his home in **Dudley**.

**Buxton Advertiser**, 28 February 2008

Clive Taylor of **New Mills** in Derbyshire terrified a neighbour by pointing an **air rifle** at him during an argument in September 2007. Two air rifles were found at his home. He has been jailed for 24 weeks after pleading guilty to a charge of harassment.

**Birmingham Mail**, 27 February 2008

Matthew Oliver and Heather Rothan have been jailed for repeatedly shooting a 17-year-old girl by taking potshots at her with an **air rifle** on a towpath and then back at home in **Wolverhampton**. The victim was found to have 15 entry wounds when taken to hospital with 10 pellets still embedded in her skin. Oliver was jailed for five years, Rothan for two years.

**Hull Daily Mail**, 22 February 2008

A **Hull** man who tried to execute his former wife by shooting her with a **.22 calibre air rifle** because he was unhappy with his divorce settlement has pleaded guilty to attempted murder. In September 2007 Ricky Walker turned up at his wife's home and began assaulting her. He went outside and returned with the air rifle and shot in the forehead twice. One pellet will be permanently lodged in her skull. He then shot himself under his chin. Walker has been jailed for 18 years (*Yorkshire Post*, 17 March 2008).

**Lincolnshire Echo**, 16 February 2008

Jay Henderson pointed an **air rifle** at a man during a burglary at a home in **Lincoln** in June 2007. He carried out the offence while on bail for another armed burglary in Lincoln following which the air rifle belonging to the occupant of the flat was found to be missing. Henderson admitted two charges of aggravated burglary and has been sent to a mental hospital for an indefinite period.

**Bolton News**, 16 February 2008

Armed police raided a house after a man was seen walking in **Brightmet** with a handgun tucked into his trousers. An **air pistol** was found which police believe was the weapon the man was carrying. Thomas Neary was arrested and has pleaded guilty to possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear (*This is Lancashire*, 28 February 2008). He has been given a four-month prison sentence, suspended for 12 months and must undergo 12 months supervision from probation officers (*Bolton News*, 19 March 2008).

**Evening Courier (Halifax)**, 16 February 2008 \*

An 18-year-old who bragged to his aunt that he would shoot his flatmate was seized by armed police in the centre of **Hebden Bridge** after his aunt saw him carrying an **airgun** and phoned his stepmother. Joseph Hartley said he found the weapon in a skip and only intended to use it to shoot tin cans. He pleaded guilty to carrying the firearm and was given a 12-month community order, had the gun destroyed and was ordered to pay £60 costs.

**Yorkshire Evening Post**, 11 February 2008

A man has appeared in court after police found illegal weaponry and £18,000 in his car after a police chase in November 2007. When his home in **Norwood** near Harrogate was searched police found a **.22 air rifle** and ammunition, an unsecured shotgun, two CS gas cannisters, a flick knife and a knuckle duster. Simon Phillips has admitted purchase of an uncertificated air rifle, possession of live ammunition, failure to comply with the terms of a shotgun certificate, possession of an offensive weapon and having a weapon for discharge of noxious substances. He has been jailed for six months (*Yorkshire Post*, 29 March 2008).

**Liverpool Echo**, 6 February 2008

A woman was arrested on suspicion of being in possession of a gun in a public place after reports that she had been seen with a handgun near a medical centre in **Stockton Heath**, Warrington. The weapon is thought to have been an **airgun**. Emma Kerr is now awaiting sentence after being refused bail (*Warrington Guardian*, 8 June 2008).

**Birmingham Mail**, 6 February 2008 \*

A court has been told how a mother on her way to pick up her children from school was shot in the head by a man taking pot-shots with an **air rifle**. Part of a pellet lodged in her head and she had to have it removed by surgery. A man has denied charges of wounding and possessing an air rifle. The incident occurred in **Handsworth** in March 2007. The defendant claimed he had been showing the air rifle to a friend in his flat when he accidentally activated the trigger. The prosecution claim that three shots were fired. The case continues.

**Wembley & Kingsbury Times**, 31 January 2008

Francis Boateng burst into a man's home in **Cricklewood**, north London, in January 2007 (see [Incidents](#)) on the hunt for drugs and money. He picked up the man's **air rifle** and shot him in the chest fatally injuring him. Boateng was convicted of manslaughter and conspiracy to rob. Three other men were convicted of conspiracy to rob. Another man is on the run and not been traced by police. Sentencing was adjourned.

**Hereford Times**, 30 January 2008 \*

Two men have been charged after a store in **Hereford** was allegedly robbed at gunpoint. The men were arrested near the scene. The weapon was later found to be an unloaded **air weapon**. One offender was jailed for 7 years and his accomplice received 5 years in a Young Offenders Institution. Two police officers received a Divisional Commendation for their swift response (*West Mercia Police*, July 2008). Two other officers have been nominated for bravery awards (*BBC*, 2 June 2009).

**Citizen (Blackpool)**, 30 January 2008

Stuart Boys, 21, has been jailed for 27 months after pointing an **air rifle** at a group of young people during a burglary in **Poulton**. He stole an X Box and some computer games. Boys had 22 previous offences on his record, including robbery.

**Bramley Today**, 28 January 2008

Desmond Sharp repeatedly shot his wife with a **.22 air rifle** in the living room of their house in **Fairfield Hill** in Leeds after he had been drinking. He has been jailed for three-and-a-half years.

**Birmingham Mail**, 15 January 2008

Carlos Tolley of **Smithswood**, Solihull, was drunk when he pointed a Walther PP99 **air pistol** at a taxi, brandished a machete at two young men and threatened to kill police officers in July 2007. The offences arose after Tolley had made a 999 call. He pleaded guilty to carrying a firearm in a public place, three offences of possessing offensive weapons and one charge of affray. He has been jailed for 18 months.

**Birmingham Mail**, 14 January 2008

Kristopher Sami fired a pellet gun in a park in **Solihull** where children were fishing. He admitted possessing a loaded **air weapon** in a public place. Sami was jailed for four months but was released immediately as he had already spent the equivalent of a nine-month sentence in custody.

**The Sentinel**, 12 January 2008

Andrew Bullock threatened youths with a **.177 calibre air pistol** at a shop in **Smallthorne**, Staffordshire, after a friend told him she had been threatened by a group of yobs. The teens ran out of the shop. Bullock was given a 10-month prison sentence, suspended for 12 months and will undergo 12 months' supervision and complete an enhanced thinking skills programme. He was ordered to forfeit the weapon and ammunition.

**The Press (York)**, 9 January 2008

Michael Simpson threatened a student with an **air pistol** during an attempted robbery in **York** in September 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). He was caught after a DNA sample left on the gun used in the robbery was matched to him after he had been stopped for a motoring offence. He has been jailed for five years after pleading guilty to attempted robbery.

**Metro**, 9 January 2008

Carl Bridson terrorised his neighbour in **Farnworth**, near Bolton, for five years allegedly firing an **air rifle** at his house and playing loud music through the night. A CCTV was shot out with a rifle. Bridson has now been banned from living in his own home after he is released from prison where he is serving a six months sentence for harassment.

**SCOTLAND****Press & Journal**, 5 December 2008

Andrew Jones terrified his wife's ex-husband by turning up on his doorstep in **Fraserburgh** holding an authentic-looking **air pistol**. The air pistol was kept in a shed to control vermin. He had just had a drink-fuelled row with his now estranged wife. In court he admitted having the gun with the intention of causing his victim to believe unlawful violence would be used against him as well as other offences. He was jailed for 12 months.

**Hamilton Advertiser**, 13 November 2008

Linda Gibson has been fined £600 for brandishing an **airgun** at a man and a woman in **Blantyre**, Lanarkshire, before carrying out an assault in September 2008. She admitted the assault and a breach of the peace.

**West Lothian Courier**, 30 October 2008

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

**Paisley Daily Express**, 28 October 2008

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

**BBC**, 22 October 2008 \*

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

**West Lothian Courier**, 16 October 2008 \*

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

**West Lothian Courier**, 17 July 2008 \*

Christopher Dunbar, 20, threatened to kill someone with an **air rifle** he was carrying in **Bathgate** in May 2007. He pleaded guilty to breach of the peace, being in possession of the gun and to causing his victim to believe that unlawful violence would be used against him. He has been given a supervised attendance order.

**BBC**, 4 June 2008

Simon Anderson and Michael Brankine took turns to fire an **air rifle** from a flat window in **Dundee** after a drinking session in January 2008. A 14-year-old boy was shot in the head. They were each given 240 hours of community service. Brankine, who fired the pellet which hit the boy, was also ordered to pay £500 compensation. The two claimed they never intended to hurt anyone and were firing at lampposts, chimneys and a phone box.

**Press & Journal**, 16 May 2008

Paul Gerrard has been fined £225 after admitting committing a breach of the peace in December 2007 and conducting himself in a disorderly manner by repeatedly discharging a **.22 air rifle** on an area of waste ground in **Brechin**. The area was partially surrounded by a housing estate and close to a nature trail. Gerrard had been firing the rifle at tin cans.

**BBC**, 15 May 2008

Mark Maydock has been jailed for five years and nine months after he admitted firing an **air rifle** out of the window of a house in **Annan**, Dumfriesshire, as a man was mowing his lawn. The incident took place in August 2007. The prosecution said that he asked a friend to bring him the rifle from his car and he then took aim and fired a number of shots at the man.

**Hamilton Advertiser**, 10 April 2008 \*

Hugh Rodger, 18, of **Stonehouse**, Lanarkshire, was put on a two year probation order for recklessly discharging an **air rifle** and severely injuring a child. The victim, a boy aged between 12 and 14, was permanently impaired. Rodger, who had pleaded guilty to the charge of recklessly discharging an air rifle, failed to turn up for a probation review and a warrant has been issued for his arrest.

**Hamilton Advertiser**, 27 March 2008

Adrian Young has been put on two years' probation for pointing a **.22 air rifle** with telescopic sights at a shop assistant in **Strathaven**, Lanarkshire. He had admitted a charge of possessing a firearm with intent to cause the woman to believe unlawful violence would be used against her. The offence occurred when he went to the flat of a friend in August 2006. Young had pointed the gun at her whilst the woman had a cigarette outside the shop. The next day he met her and told her that next time there would be "bullet" in the weapon. She contacted the police who subsequently detained Young.

**Banffshire Journal**, 26 February 2008

Darren Barley has admitted discharging an **air rifle** across a road and hitting a streetlight in **King Edward**, Aberdeenshire. He also pleaded guilty to a further two separate charges of having a loaded weapon without lawful authority or reasonable excuse and being drunk in possession of a firearm. He was given a £300 fine, £100 for each offence.

**ic Renfrewshire**, 25 February 2008

Robert Peacock has pleaded guilty to unlawful possession of a sawn-off bolt action **air rifle** and been jailed for six months. He claimed he had bought the firearm from local youths "on the black market". The gun was found at his home in **Barrhead** in April 2007. After being tested the gun was found to fall within the terms of the Firearms Act.

**ic Renfrewshire**, 21 February 2008 \*

James Campbell, 20, fired a shot from an **air rifle** at a shopkeeper whilst attempting to rob a store in **Paisley** in September 2007. He targeted the store because he "didn't like black people or Asians". The shopkeeper managed to activate the raid alarm and then threw a bottle of wine at Campbell. Campbell was sent to jail for six year and four months.

**Daily Record**, 21 February 2008 \*

Stephen Crawford, 19, and Daniel McBeth, 17, were held during a police crackdown on car crime on **Orkney**. They stole a car, and McBeth had fired a loaded **airgun** he found in the car. McBeth was locked up for seven months after admitting a driving offence and possessing the air pistol.

**Daily Record**, 19 February 2008

Edward Humphrey fired an **air rifle** from the window of a flat in **Renfrew** and was photographed by a worker in an office opposite. He has been jailed for 18 months.

**Daily Record**, 7 February 2008

Shaun Trotter repeatedly fired pellets from an **air pistol** at four teenagers in a swing park in **Cumbernauld** in May 2006 after one them "mooned" at him. None of the shots hit the boys. He admitted a firearms offence and assaulting the boys and has been given a one year jail sentence.

**BBC**, 18 January 2008 \*

James Kerr, 18, will serve at least 13 years in jail for the murder of a grandfather whom he repeatedly shot in the head with his **airgun**. The murder took place at the home of the victim, a pensioner aged 72, in **Winchburgh**, West Lothian in August 2007 (see [Incidents](#)).

## WALES

**Western Mail**, 13 December 2008

Gary Young has admitted possessing an over-powerful **air rifle**, a knuckleduster, and a small quantity of cannabis and has been warned he faces a prison sentence. He had been found not guilty of possessing an 8mm handgun, a silencer and cartridges which were found at a clubhouse owned by the West Wales chapter of the Hell's Angles in **Haverfordwest**. In the event Young was given a conditional discharge for two years and ordered to pay prosecution costs (*Western Telegraph*, 12 January 2009).

**South Wales Echo**, 15 November 2008 \*

A 16-year-old who pointed an **air rifle** at a schoolboy's feet and ordered him to dance before firing into his hip has been given a 10 months detention and training order. He had previously been convicted of causing grievous bodily harm but had failed to comply with a community order which was imposed at the time. The incident occurred in **Aberdare** after the two youths had been invited to shoot cans by two other youths who had the gun.

**This is South Wales**, 16 September 2008

A man has admitted brandishing an **air rifle** in public as dozens of pupils made their way to school in **Gowerton** in June 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). Dean Barratt admitted possessing an air rifle with intention of causing people to fear unlawful violence would be used. A teenager was formally found not guilty. The men had been camping in a tent on parkland close to the school. He has been sent to prison for 16 months (*South Wales Evening Post*, 27 September 2008).

**South Wales Echo**, 20 August 2008

Marek Tarasiewicz has been jailed for two years for a firearm offence and four months, to run concurrently, for offering to supply drugs. He was heard to threaten to kill someone outside a nightclub in **Pontypridd** with a loaded **air weapon** in June 2008 after the man, to whom he had offered pills, became aggressive but subsequently walked away. Another man alerted bouncers who detained Tarasiewicz until the police arrived.

**Rhondda Leader**, 7 August 2008

Stephen Davies has been jailed for three months for carrying a "potentially lethal" **air pistol** in public. The judge told him that his case was alarming because he had drunk four cars of lager before being spotted by police in **Ferndale** in a car. A police officer noticed a bulge under his right armpit but after being asked several times what it was admitted carrying a Webley Tempest 0.22 calibre air pistol. Davies pleaded guilty to unauthorised possession of a loaded firearm in public.

**Evening Post (Swansea)**, 3 June 2008

John Garnett from **Swansea** pleaded guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm after an incident which took place during a party in March 2008. He pointed an **air rifle** at a friend before hitting her in a fight over it. He was given a six-month prison sentence suspended for two years with a supervision requirement for 12 months. He was ordered to complete 200 hours of unpaid work.

**Daily Post**, 26 April 2008 \*

Steven Roberts, 18, who admitted possessing an offensive weapon after brandishing a knife at a McDonalds restaurant in **Mold** was also in breach of a conditional discharge for previously having an **airgun** in public. He was given a 10-month sentence in a young offenders' institute.

**South Wales Echo**, 19 April 2008

Russell Saunders shot two young men with a potentially lethal **air rifle** as they returned home along a street in **Maesteg** in April 2007. A court heard that he had been hoarding air rifles, stun guns and anarchist literature and a homemade bomb in his bedsit. He was given an indeterminate sentence.

**BBC**, 13 February 2008

Craig Platt from **Kinmel Bay**, Conwy, pointed a loaded **air rifle** at his wife a few days after learning of her child's paternity when he appeared on ITV's The Jeremy Kyle Show. He admitted possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and was given an indeterminate sentence for public protection.

**Daily Post**, 29 January 2008

David Smith was given a nine-month suspended prison sentence after admitting assault causing actual bodily harm. There will be a two years supervision requirement and he must attend a domestic violence programme. Smith, from **Kinmel Bay** near Rhyl, shot his wife in the shoulder with an **airgun** after a row in September 2007 (see [October 2007 Incidents](#)). He claimed he had been aiming at a magpie.

**Daily Post**, 5 January 2008

David Davies from **Rhyl** admitted having two .22 rifles and ammunition without the proper documentation in July 2007 as well as the illegal possession of an **air rifle**. The case was adjourned for sentence.

## INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

**Your Thanet News**, 23 December 2008

A cat was shot and injured in **Westgate-on-Sea**, Kent. The vet has confirmed that it had been most likely injured with a pellet from an **airgun**. The cat had a pellet lodged in its body from an earlier injury.

**Oxford Mail**, 20 December 2008

A cat was shot at point blank range with an **air rifle** in an attack in **Headington**, Oxford. The pellet tore through the muscle of her back leg and shattered the bone. She has had to have a metal rod inserted in her leg, the treatment costing £1200. The family's other cat is missing and her owner fears that the missing cat may also have been attacked and killed. The cat has since been found shot dead (see [January 2009 Incidents](#)).

**Runcorn and Widnes World**, 17 December 2008

One cat has been killed and another seriously injured by **air rifles** in Cheshire. The dead cat was found in **Widnes**, the other attack took place in **West Bank**, where a cat lost its eye and may not survive owing to the pellet being lodged in its jaw.

**West Sussex Gazette**, 12 December 2008

A cat has been left fighting for her life after an **airgun** pellet passed through her body, narrowly missing all of her vital organs. The pet was left in agony following the attack in **Horsham**, Sussex.

**This is Sutton Coldfield**, 6 December 2008

A family from **Sutton Coldfield** are appealing for witnesses after their pet cat was shot in the leg with an **air rifle** and viciously kicked.

**East Lothian Courier**, 4 December 2008

A cat has been so badly injured in an **airgun** attack that she had to be put down. The cat from **Pencaitland**, East Lothian, suffered a shattered knee.

**Bognor Regis Observer**, 4 December 2008

Two cats have been shot with **airguns** in recent attacks in West Sussex. One cat was found in the garden shed at her home in **Burgess Hill**. A pellet had gone through her spleen, stomach and three parts of her bowel and vets have removed part of the bowel. At another vets in **Ardingly** a cat had his eye removed after being shot with an air rifle.

**This is Derbyshire**, 3 December 2008

A £1200 reward is being offered after four swans were killed in Derbyshire. In the latest attack a swan which had been shot was found in **Ironville**. The bird died later. Another swan was found shot by an **airgun** at a golf club in **Codnor**. The incidents could be linked to an earlier incident when a swan, thought to have been shot, was found with severe head injuries in **Jacksdale**. Nine **air weapon** pellets were found in the bird's head and three in its neck. Another pellet had entered through the throat into the stomach. The swan was still alive but had to be put down (*This is Derbyshire*, 17 December 2008).

## Incidents involving Animals

**Mid Cheshire Chronicle**, 3 December 2008

An **airgun** sniper has blinded a cat in one eye in an attack in **Rudheath**, Cheshire.

**Bromsgrove Advertiser**, 3 December 2008

A cat has had its leg shattered after being shot with an **airgun** pellet in **Cofton Hackett**, Worcestershire. An RSPCA described the shooting as a mindless act of cruelty which is becoming more common.

**Melton Times**, 27 November 2008

A pet cat from **Syston**, Leicestershire, has been shot and injured three times in two **airgun** attacks since August. Her owners are also concerned that her housemate who came home with a bloody hole in her nose and a swollen eye may also have been the victim of an air weapon attack.

**Daily Mail**, 27 November 2008

Phil Bishop shot dead his neighbour's dog after becoming annoyed at its early morning barking. The dog died minutes after being shot when Bishop fired his **.22 air rifle** from his study window in **Brinton**, Norfolk. He claimed he was aiming to hit a metal bench in his next door garden to make a noise to scare the dog away. He was given a two-year conditional discharge after he admitted causing unnecessary suffering to an animal. He was also ordered to pay costs and £1,750 compensation.

**Eastwood & Kimberley Advertiser**, 21 November 2008

A man has been given a 12-month conditional discharge and fined £938 after pleading guilty to shooting a collared dove. James Dodd also signed his **air rifle** over to the RSPCA. The dove had to be put to sleep after being hit with a pellet. Dodd had been seen shooting the bird at his home in **Eastwood**, Nottinghamshire.

**BBC**, 21 November 2008

A cat suffered immense pain and had to be put to sleep following an incident in **Paignton**, Devon, in which she was shot with an **airgun**. A pellet lodged near her spine and despite an operation the effects of her injury were too severe.

**Keighley News**, 14 November 2008

A cat owner arrived home in **Keighley**, West Yorkshire, to discover a trail of blood leading to her pet. She had been shot at close range in the stomach. It appears she was shot with a high powered **air rifle**.

**BBC**, 14 November 2008

A kitten has died and two cats have been injured in **airgun** attacks according to the RSPCA. The kitten was shot in **Stoke-on-Trent**. The injured cats were attacked in **Pensnett** and **Sedgley** in the West Midlands.

**Rhondda Leader**, 13 November 2008

A dog has been found dead from a gunshot wound in **Pentre**, Mid Glamorgan. The dog had suffered a deep wound to its right ear and may have been led to the scene before it died. Four days earlier a cat from **Tylorstown** had been shot in the throat with an **air rifle**. The cat survived but needed pain relief and sedation.

## Incidents involving Animals

### **Coventry Evening Telegraph**, 12 November 2008

A kitten is recovering after being shot with a **pellet gun** in the **Tile Hill** area of Coventry. X-rays showed a pellet had gone through her internal organs and surgery was needed to fix her ruptured kidney and colon.

### **This is North Devon**, 8 November 2008

A cat was shot with an **airgun** and left to die near his family home in **Barnstaple**, Devon. An x-ray showed he had been shot in the shoulder and the pellet had gone into the animal's spine, causing permanent damage. He had to be put to sleep.

### **The Citizen (Blackburn)**, 2 November 2008

A cat was left in agony after being shot with an **air rifle** in **Mill Hill**, Blackburn. X-rays showed a pellet lodged close to his heart. The pellet entered his body just behind his right front leg.

### **The Sentinel**, 1 November 2008

A cat has been left struggling to walk after being shot with an **air rifle** in **Hanford**, Staffordshire. A pellet is lodged in her brain. Two years ago another of the owner's cats was shot and a pellet was left embedded in his head.

### **The News (Portsmouth)**, 30 October 2008

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

### **MK News**, 30 October 2008

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

### **Haverhill Echo**, 30 October 2008

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

### **Runcorn & Widnes World**, 23 October 2008

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

### **Express & Echo**, 22 October 2008

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

### **Farmers Weekly**, 21 October 2008

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

## Incidents involving Animals

**Exmouth Herald**, 16 October 2008

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

**South Wales Echo**, 14 October 2008

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

**Great Yarmouth Mercury**, 11 October 2008

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

**The Sentinel**, 10 October 2008

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

**BBC**, 9 October 2008

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

**BBC**, 8 October 2008

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

**Kent Online**, 29 September 2008

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

**BBC**, 29 September 2008

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

**Daily Echo**, 17 September 2008

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

## Incidents involving Animals

### **Bracknell Forest Standard**, 16 September 2008

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

### **Daily Post**, 13 September 2008

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

### **Bognor Regis Observer**, 12 September 2008

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

### **Skegness Standard**, 11 September 2008

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

### **Norwich Evening News**, 5 September 2008

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

### **Todmorden News**, 4 September 2008

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

### **This is Bristol**, 4 September 2008

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

### **Somerset County Gazette**, 4 September 2008

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

### **Citizen (Gloucestershire)**, 4 September 2008

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

### **News Shopper**, 2 September 2008

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

## Incidents involving Animals

### ***This is Bristol***, 21 August 2008

Two cats have been shot with **airguns** in **Kingswood**, Bristol. One cat shot in May survived, although was badly injured, but the second cat, which was shot this month, had to be put to sleep as a result of injuries sustained by pellets.

### ***North Devon Gazette***, 20 August 2008

A cat from **Northam**, Devon, was shot in the back with an **airgun**. The pellet travelled through his body into one of his back legs. It is lucky that the pellet missed his vital organs.

### ***Milton Keynes Citizen***, 19 August 2008

A cat has been left paralysed by an **air rifle** shot following an attack in **Grange Farm**, Milton Keynes. Her owner initially thought her pet had been hit by a car but the vet found that she had been hit by a pellet.

### ***Metro***, 17 August 2008

A cat has been blinded in one eye after being hit by **airgun** pellets in **St Austell**, Cornwall. Five other cats have been killed in similar attacks in the area over the past five months.

### ***Worcester News***, 16 August 2008

A number of pets have been injured and one has died after a spate of shootings in Worcestershire and Herefordshire. Three cats, a dog and a ferret have been shot with **air rifles** or **BB guns**. One cat was found bleeding from a wound in his side in **Much Cowarne**. A second cat who was shot in the head with an airgun in **Grafton Flyford** is still fighting for his life. Earlier in the month a cat was a victim of an airgun attack in **Stoke Prior** and bones in his right leg and chest were shattered. A dog had to be put down after an airgun pellet lodged in his chest after he was shot in **Allensmore**. The ferret was found in **Worcester** and had been shot in the leg with a BB gun.

### ***Garstang Courier***, 15 August 2008

A pet cat has had to have a leg amputated after being hit by an **airgun** pellet near her home in **St Michael's**, Lancashire. Her owner has warned other residents to be on their guard. Police have since revealed that in recent weeks another cat and a dog have also suffered injuries after being shot by an airgun in St Michael's (*Garstang Courier*, 20 August 2008).

### ***Evening Leader***, 15 August 2008

A cat walked into the family home in **Connah's Quay**, Flintshire, visibly hurt and covered in blood. An x-ray confirmed that he had been shot and that an **airgun** pellet had passed through his intestines. A life-saving operation was performed to remove the pellet.

### ***Wisbech Standard***, 13 August 2008

The owner of a cat killed by an **air rifle** wound in **Wisbech**, Cambridgeshire, has pleaded with other residents to take extra care of their pets. Her cat was found wounded near the garage of the family home.

### ***Lincolnshire Echo***, 11 August 2008

Eight horses were shot with **air rifles** and slashed in an attack at an equine welfare centre in **Washingborough**, Lincolnshire.

## Incidents involving Animals

### **Lincolnshire Echo**, 11 August 2008

A family cat from **Lincoln** died after an operation to remove an **airgun** pellet which had penetrated his gall bladder and stomach. He died two days after being attacked.

### **The Citizen (Blackburn)**, 8 August 2008

A sniper shot dead a pet cat with an **airgun** in **Clayton-Le-Moors**, Lancashire. Residents say a number of cats have gone missing from the area over the past few years, and that owners are worried their pets met a similar fate.

### **Eastbourne Today**, 4 August 2008

A cat needed emergency surgery after being shot in the eye with an **airgun** on a patch of ground near a children's playground in **Lower Horsebridge**, Sussex.

### **Newton News**, 30 June 2008

A correspondent in **Newton Aycliffe**, County Durham, has written about the shooting of her cat with a high powered **air rifle** using .22 pointed hunting pellets which she has as evidence. The cat was fortunate that the pellet missed vital organs and she survived after having surgery. The woman also described how her front door window has been shot out and attempts have been made to shoot her CCTV cameras. She is appealing for witnesses.

### **Horncastle News**, 30 June 2008

A young cat has been shot and wounded with an **air rifle** in **Horncastle**, Lincolnshire. She returned home with a wound to her side and a vet found a pellet had entered one side of her body.

### **Runcorn and Widnes Weekly News**, 26 June 2008

A cat may need to have its leg amputating after it was shot with an **airgun** in **Widnes**. A vet found a pellet lodged in the cat's leg.

### **Hexham Courant**, 26 June 2008

A cat has been killed and another left blind in one eye after being shot with an **air rifle** in the village of **Acomb**, Northumberland.

### **Skegness Standard**, 25 June 2008

A kitten belonging to a family in **Skegness**, Lincolnshire, has been shot with a metal pellet which is believed to have been fired from an **air rifle**.

### **Northern Echo**, 24 June 2008

A pony has been shot with an **air rifle** in **Stanley**, County Durham. A vet had to remove a pellet.

### **Birmingham Mail**, 24 June 2008

A pet cat was left seriously hurt after being shot four times with a **pellet gun** in **Kingswinford**, West Midlands. The cat was found bleeding in the garden shed of his home.

## Incidents involving Animals

### **Evening Herald (Plymouth)**, 23 June 2008

A seagull was shot dead in **Torpoint**, Cornwall. Police say that the bird was probably shot with an **air rifle**.

### **Lincolnshire Echo**, 20 June 2008

A spate of illegal bird shootings in the **Sleaford** and **Ruskington** area of Lincolnshire has seen the slaughter of sparrows, blue tits and pigeons. A pigeon shot in the chest with an **air rifle** in Ruskington has survived, however.

### **Daily Echo**, 16 June 2008

A six-month-old tabby cat has been injured in an **airgun** shooting in **Upton**, Dorset. The cat was found in the family garden covered in blood with a round hole in his side. A vet operated on the cat but there is only a "50-50" chance that he will survive.

### **BBC**, 12 June 2008

A swan was found in **Telford**, Shropshire, unable to stand after being shot with an **airgun**. It has been operated on and is recovering at a wildlife rescue centre.

### **BBC**, 10 June 2008

Two oyster catchers have been shot dead on an industrial estate in **Perth**. Both had been shot with **airgun** pellets. A third bird was found squashed on the road.

### **Evening News (Edinburgh)**, 9 June 2008

A pet cat has lost an eye after being shot in the head with an **air rifle** in **Tranent**, East Lothian. Vets said she was lucky to be alive after the pellet lodged in her skull.

### **Lancashire Evening Post**, 7 June 2008

A cat belonging to a pensioner was shot at and had its leg broken in an **air rifle** attack in **Brookfield**. The shattered leg may now have to be amputated.

### **Daily Post**, 6 June 2008

A young goat was shot in the neck with an **airgun**. She and another young goat were found wandering in a quarry at **Nantlle**, near Caemarfon in North Wales. A pellet was removed by a vet.

### **Argus Lite**, 4 June 2008

A cat has been injured in an **airgun** attack in **Hove**, Sussex. The attack has been reported to police. It is the latest in a spate of shootings. In one vets reported treating a cat with six pellet wounds.

### **Midweek Herald**, 30 July 2008

A teenager from **Axminster**, Devon, has been left devastated by the amputation of her cat's leg. The wound appeared to have been caused by a bullet which had shattered the bone, though it seems likely that an **airgun** was used.

## Incidents involving Animals

**BBC**, 28 July 2008

Someone went into a garden in **Rushden**, Northamptonshire, and shot a pet rabbit at close range in the head with an **air weapon**. The rabbit, which was running free in a pen, was killed.

**Lowestoft Journal**, 26 July 2008

Police are appealing for information after a baby seagull was killed by an **air weapon** in **Lowestoft**, Suffolk. It was found still alive but with severe injuries to a wing and had to be put to sleep.

**Western Mail**, 24 July 2008

A cat has been shot dead in what the RSPCA has described as a "brutal" attack. The animal was shot in the neck using an **air rifle** in **Varteg**, Pontypool. The incident follows a number of attacks against birds in the same area.

**East Lothian Courier**, 24 July 2008

A vet says that a horse is "very lucky" to be alive after it was shot in the neck with an **airgun** at a farm at **Whitehill Mains**. The pellet lodged in his throat narrowly missing the main artery.

**Horncastle News**, 23 July 2008

A third **air rifle** attack in a month in **Horncastle**, Lincolnshire, has left another cat dead. The pet was discovered in a field at the bottom of her owner's garden. She had been shot in the back of the neck.

**Maidenhead Advertiser**, 22 July 2008

Two swans have been shot with an **airgun** in **Iver**, Buckinghamshire. The male was dead after being shot in the neck and the female, who was nursing seven cygnets with her partner, was shot under the wing and has had to have the wing amputated. She and the cygnets were taken to a rescue centre.

**South Wales Echo**, 18 July 2008

A cat was left in agony after it was shot with an **airgun** in **Canton**, Cardiff. The pellet had gone almost all the way through his body, grazing his stomach and kidneys. His owner has now had to spend almost £1000 on vets' bills to help the cat recover.

**Manchester Evening News**, 18 July 2008

A vet has appealed for an end to gun attacks on animals after another cat was shot. The pet was shot in the back near his home in **Wigan**, Greater Manchester. The **airgun** pellet smashed into his spine narrowly missing vital organs.

**Evening Leader**, 18 July 2008

A cat has been shot with a pellet gun on a street in **Blacon**, Chester. A vet discovered that a pellet had smashed the animal's femur and had become lodged in the leg muscle. The pellet must have been fired at close range or come from a high powered **air rifle**, according to a vet.

## Incidents involving Animals

### **Great Yarmouth Mercury**, 17 July 2008

Another cat was the target of an **airgun** sniper in **Bradwell**, Norfolk. He was shot in the side, piercing his diaphragm and damaging his kidneys and liver.

### **Camden New Journal**, 17 July 2008

A dog was shot by an **air rifle** sniper whilst he was playing in a back garden in **Highgate**, north London. It was the second time he had been shot in six months. His owner found him with blood pouring from his side. She says she won't let her children go out in the garden alone.

### **BBC**, 17 July 2008

A young pet cat has lost an eye after being shot with an **airgun** in **Bishopmill**, Elgin in Moray. A vet found a pellet and removed the eye.

### **Horncastle News**, 15 July 2008

A second cat has been shot with an **airgun** in **Horncastle**, Lincolnshire, in two weeks. The injury was so severe that the vet could not do anything to save him.

### **Sunday People**, 13 July 2008

Two cats belonging to the same family have been shot in **Scunthorpe**, Lincolnshire. One had to be put to sleep after an **airgun** pellet shattered her spine. Another cat was shot at close range between the eyes in **Polebrook**, Northamptonshire. The same article reports the recent shooting of swans with airguns in **Peterborough** (one bird found riddled with pellets), **Northamptonshire** (two birds shot at point-blank range after being lured by three youths waving bread) and **Hickling** in Leicestershire (three birds shot in the head and neck).

### **Pontypridd Observer**, 10 July 2008

Two pet horses have been killed inside 48 hours on the same farm in **Efail Isaf**, South Wales. One died of a heart attack, but the second horse died after being hit by **airgun** pellets.

### **This is Derbyshire**, 8 July 2008

A cat has been blinded in one eye after being shot twice with an **airgun** in **Long Eaton**. It is believed that the culprit has used an air weapon to attack other animals in the area.

### **BBC**, 8 July 2008

Two nests of herring gull chicks have been orphaned after the death of three adult birds who were illegally shot with an **airgun** in **Newquay**, Cornwall.

### **Gazette**, 7 July 2008

A cat was fighting for its life after being shot for a second time. He had to have major surgery after being hit with an **air rifle** pellet in **Colchester**, Essex.

### **Eastern Daily Press**, 2 July 2008

A cat owner in **Brandon**, Suffolk, who thought her cat had been hit by a car, discovered, after an x-ray at her vets, that her pet had an **air rifle** pellet lodged in his spinal cord. The cat had to be put to sleep.

## Incidents involving Animals

### ***This is Lincolnshire***, 31 May 2008

Two swans have been shot dead with **air rifles** in Lincolnshire. The first was found by a member of the public at **Sturton-by-Stow** and a search of the area uncovered another. Both had gunshot wounds to the neck and head.

### ***Epsom Guardian***, 30 May 2008

A heron was the latest victim in a wave of animal shootings in Merton, south London. The bird was found in **Morden** after being attacked with an **airgun**. Recently a fox and a squirrel were shot and killed in **Mitcham**. In neighbouring boroughs a squirrel, crow and two foxes have also been shot. Airguns and crossbows have been used.

### ***Crawley Observer***, 30 May 2008

A cat suffered a chipped pelvis and has an **air rifle** pellet still lodged in his thigh after being shot in Broadfield, **Sussex**.

### ***Manchester Evening News***, 28 May 2008

A cat has been left blinded after being shot in the eye with an **airgun** in **Atherton**, Wigan. The pellet shattered his eyeball and is still lodged in his neck.

### ***Kent Online***, 22 May 2008

Youngsters have reportedly been killing ducks and a swan on the River Stour. The dead birds have been found by boatmen and people living along the river at **Fordwich**. One of the latest victims was a duck that frequently visited the local pub. Two teenagers who have been seen several times on the cycle path beside the river with an **air rifle**, are being blamed for the killings.

### ***Western Telegraph***, 18 May 2008

A cat found lying on the path to his home in **Stackpole**, Pembrokeshire, had been shot with an **airgun**. An X-ray revealed that it would be too dangerous to remove the pellet which is lodged near his spine.

### ***Evening Gazette (Middlesbrough)***, 16 May 2008

Five seagulls have been found dead with apparent **airgun** injuries, three in **Carlin How** in Cleveland and two in **Robin Hood's Bay** near Whitby in North Yorkshire.

### ***BBC***, 15 May 2008

An estate in **Ashford**, Kent, has been deemed to be too dangerous for cats by the RSPCA. A family applying to re-home a cat have been turned down. A spokesperson for the charity said 90% of complaints in the area were from the estate, where cats had been targeted with **air** and **pellet guns**. The RSPCA has now announced that it intends to lift the ban (*Only Kent*, 29 May 2008).

### ***Bolton News***, 14 May 2008

A cat is suffering from severe burns and a gunshot wound after the latest attack on a cat in the **Great Lever**. An **airgun** pellet was discovered lodged inside her and she had been so badly burned by boiling water that her fur has fallen out.

## Incidents involving Animals

### **Bolton News**, 12 May 2008

A cat has been left partially paralysed after it was hit twice in the hip with pellets from an **air rifle**. The injured cat was found in a garden in **Farnworth**, Bolton. The RSPCA funded the operation needed to remove the pellets.

### **Burton Mail**, 9 May 2008

Local people who enjoy the tranquillity of the Burton Mail Centenary Woodland at **Burton**, Staffordshire, have been shocked to see a man carrying an **air rifle** which he has been using to take pot shots at birds nesting in the woods.

### **Pontypridd Observer**, 8 May 2008

The paper has reported a number of instances of **airgun** abuse. In April a cat in **Pontypridd** was found with airgun pellets hanging out of its neck and chin. The owner said that this was the fourth attack on the cat in one year. In March and April two cats, a horse and a bird were shot with airgun pellets resulting in two of the animals having to be put to sleep because of the seriousness of their injuries.

### **Northumberland Gazette**, 2 May 2008

A cat has been shot dead with an **airgun** in the garden of his home in **Hartlepool**, County Durham.

### **Bearsden Herald**, 1 May 2008

Two **airgun** attacks on cats in less than 24 hours in **Bearsden**, East Dunbartonshire, have led to calls for the weapons to be restricted. One of the attacks left one cat writhing in agony after being shot at close range in the chest. In another attack, which happened earlier in April a cat lost an eye after a pellet embedded in its skull.

### **Shields Gazette**, 29 April 2008

A cat has lost the sight in one eye after being shot with an **airgun**. The stray was found on the streets in **South Tyneside** and dropped off at South Tyneside and Sunderland Animal Rescue.

### **Lynn News**, 29 April 2008

An **airgun** attack has left a cat with a .22 pellet lodged in its skull. The cat from **Gaywood**, Norfolk, was shot in the head with the pellet entering his nose, passing through his mouth and lodging in the root of his tongue. His owner has been left with a £2,500 vet's bill.

### **This is Gloucestershire**, 25 April 2008

A cat belonging to a nine-year-old boy has been left with horrific eye injuries after being shot by an **air rifle** in **Walton Cardiff**, Gloucestershire. The cause of the injuries was discovered when X-rays were taken. This is the second time that the pet has been shot.

### **yourcanterbury.co.uk**, 24 April 2008

A swan has been shot twice in the head with an **air rifle** in **Canterbury**. She is now recovering at a wildlife centre in East Sussex.

## Incidents involving Animals

**Daily Echo**, 24 April 2008

A cat was fighting for her life after being shot in the spine with an **air rifle** in **West Moors**, Dorset. The attack is believed to have taken place in a forest behind the cat's home.

**Daily Echo**, 24 April 2008

Another cat has been left fatally wounded in an **airgun** attack. The cat was shot with an airgun pellet at **Lower Bockhampton**, Dorset, and was left paralysed in his back legs. His owners had no choice but to have their pet put down.

**Chad (Mansfield)**, 23 April 2008

A 10-year-old cat was found dead by its owners near their home in **Mansfield**. The pet had an **air weapon** wound in the left-hand side of her stomach.

**Bucks Herald**, 23 April 2008

A cat from **Aylesbury** has survived an **air weapon** attack despite suffering horrific injuries. Her pelvis was shattered by one pellet which entered above her left hind leg and she had a hernia where another pellet had ruptured part of her abdomen.

**Bexhill-on-Sea Observer**, 15 April 2008

East Sussex Wildlife Rescue and Ambulance Service report that there have been six shootings of seagulls in **Hastings**, Sussex, in the last three weeks. According to their casualty care manager people are shooting the gulls with a shotgun rather than an air rifle. However, in neighbouring **Bexhill** two seagulls have been shot with **air rifles** within two weeks (*Bexhill-on-Sea Observer*, 18 April 2008).

**Kent Online**, 11 April 2008

A woman whose two cats were shot with an **air rifle** in **Marden** now fears for the safety of her two young children. In the latest attack her car staggered into the home with pellets lodged in her head, leg and chest. In the previous attack another of her cats was injured in the foot.

**Evening News (Edinburgh)**, 11 April 2008

A stray cat has been found in **South Queensferry** horrifically injured after being shot with an **airgun** 40 times. It is believed that the cat was held down while being repeatedly shot. He has had to have one of his legs amputated.

**Weston & Somerset Mercury**, 10 April 2008

A cat has died after being hit by an **airgun** pellet in **Weston Village**, Somerset. Her owner found the cat wheezing and when she was turned over she could see she was bleeding. She was pronounced dead on arrival at a veterinary centre.

**Kent News**, 10 April 2008

Three cats have been badly injured after being shot with **air rifles** in incidents in **Biggin Hill**, **Eltham** and **Westerham**.

## Incidents involving Animals

**Lancashire Telegraph**, 9 April 2008

**Air rifle** thugs are shooting rare birds at a nature reserve in **Colne**. Passers-by saw men lying on the ground and shooting at bird tables in the reserve. When approached the men said they were practising target shooting. Police said the men put at risk the lives of families enjoying the reserve who could have been hit by a stray pellet.

**News Shopper**, 9 April 2008

A cat was shot through the eye with an **air rifle** in **Eltham**, south east London. He was taken to the vets after arriving home wounded and has had to have an eye removed.

**Chad (Mansfield)**, 9 April 2008

A cat is recovering after becoming a victim of an **air rifle** shooting in **Shirebrook**, Nottinghamshire. He suffered multiple fractures in the shooting which happened in the garden of his new home.

**The Press (York)**, 7 April 2008

A cat shot near her home in **York** has died following a two-and-a-half hour operation in a bid to save her life. The vet's bill will cost her owner more than £1000. An **airgun** pellet had lodged in the cat's abdomen damaging her liver and intestines.

**Express & Star**, 7 April 2008

A dove let out for a flight by its owner has been shot with an **air rifle**. The bird was one of three released that were perching on the roof of the owner's house in **Brierley Hill**, West Midlands, when it was hit.

**Shropshire Star**, 4 April 2008

A kitten was left desperately clinging to life after being shot "at close range" with an **air rifle**. She was found by her owner cowering behind a shed in the garden in **Wellington**.

**BBC**, 3 April 2008

Vets were trying to save the sight of a cat after it was shot in the eye with an **airgun** in **Woodley**, Berkshire. The owners found the cat cowering under a bed with one eye closed.

**Manchester Evening News**, 2 April 2008

A dead coot recovered from **Little Lever**, Greater Manchester, was found to have been shot with an **air weapon**. It is illegal to kill these birds during the mating season from March to July.

**Evening Telegraph (Derby)**, 1 April 2008

A swan has been found dead and another seriously injured in an **airgun** attack near a canal in **Long Eaton**, Derbyshire. The injured bird had to be put down by a vet a week later.

**The Sentinel**, 31 March 2008

A family's pet cat is recovering after an operation to remove an **airgun** pellet. She was shot in the spine in **Cheadle**, Staffordshire, in February 2008.

## Incidents involving Animals

### **Spalding Guardian**, 30 March 2008

A cat died shortly after being found by her owner lying injured in his shed in **Holbeach**, Lincolnshire. She had been shot in the stomach with an **air rifle** and died because of severe internal bleeding.

### **Manchester Evening News**, 27 March 2008

A Canada goose was shot dead with an **air rifle** in **Moston**, Greater Manchester. Police were called following reports that the bird had been shot and killed. A description of the man responsible was given to the police.

### **Evening Chronicle (Newcastle)**, 24 March 2008

A cat is lucky to be alive after he was shot with an **airgun**. The cat was fine when he was let out of the family house in **West Denton**, Newcastle, but three hours later he was found in agony under a bush in the front garden. A vet discovered that a pellet had gone through his kidney and perforated his intestine and pancreas. Major surgery saved his life.

### **Chorley Guardian**, 20 March 2008

A kitten had to undergo emergency surgery after an **airgun** pellet went through his side, liver, kidney and spleen causing internal bleeding. His owner from **Chorley**, Lancashire, found her pet very quiet and lethargic and she picked him up she felt a hole in his side.

### **This is Hertfordshire**, 19 March 2008

A goose had to be put down after it was shot with an **air rifle** at Stanborough Lakes, **Welwyn Garden City**. The bird was rescued from the water by an RSPCA inspector. An hour long operation revealed that the pellet had shattered the ear canal and the goose would not recover. The RSPCA is caring for another goose which may also have been shot with an air rifle.

### **Sunderland Echo**, 19 March 2008

Two pet cats were lucky to survive after they were both shot with an **air rifle** in **South Hylton**. Their owner said that his neighbourhood has been repeatedly targeted by thugs with airguns. He has now alerted the police and other residents to the problem in a bid to put a stop to it.

### **Leicester Mercury**, 18 March 2008

A badger was shot seven times in the head in an **air rifle** attack. It was found dead and covered in blood by riverside rangers in **Aylestone Meadows**, Leicester. Badgers and their setts are legally protected.

### **BBC**, 17 March 2008

Police are investigating after a rare peregrine falcon was shot and injured in **St Lawrence**, near Ventnor on the Isle of Wight. The bird was discovered with a gun shot wound to its back in the garden of a house. A vet found an **airgun pellet** still lodged in its body as well as signs of earlier shotgun wounds that had healed.

### **South Wales Echo**, 15 March 2008

A kitten died after being shot "just for the thrill of it" according to his owners. The kitten suffered an **air rifle** wound when he was shot in fields near their home in **St Brides Wentlodge**, Gwent.

## Incidents involving Animals

**Express & Star**, 15 March 2008

A pet cat has been shot at point blank range with an **air rifle** in an attack in **Bilbrook**, Wolverhampton. A metal pellet lodged just an inch away from her spine.

**Neath Guardian**, 13 March 2008

An injured swan has been found to have **air rifle** pellets lodged in its neck. The swan was shot at **Banwen** Pond in the Dulais Valley.

**Exmouth Journal**, 13 March 2008

A day-old lamb was killed with an **airgun** on a farm in **Clyst St Mary**, Devon.

**BBC**, 13 March 2008

A cat required surgery after being shot with a suspected **airgun** pellet in **Peterhead**, Aberdeenshire.

**Bolton News**, 8 March 2008

A show horse has been shot with an **airgun** in his stables in **Radcliffe**. He will be left with a scar after having had a pellet removed from his face. The horse is the latest victim in a string of airgun attacks on animals in Bolton.

**Whitby Gazette**, 7 March 2008

Two cats have been shot, probably with an **air rifle**, in attacks in **Whitby**, North Yorkshire. One of the cats needed extensive surgery and has lost the sight in one eye. The other cat will also need treatment after being shot in the cheek.

**BBC**, 4 March 2008

A cat has suffered injuries to its neck and mouth after it was shot in the garden of a house in **Binscombe**, near Godalming in Surrey. The offenders are believed to have gone to the back of the house and shot the cat in the right side of the neck. The cat was shot with an **air rifle** and has since died (*Surrey Advertiser*, 25 March 2008).

**Welwyn & Hatfield Times**, 27 February 2008

The **Potters Bar** Edition of the paper revealed an attack on a cat which is now recovering after being shot three times with an **air rifle**.

**Kent News**, 26 February 2008

The RSPCA is appealing for information after a cat was shot with an **air rifle** in **Westerham**. A pellet was removed from close to his spinal cord.

**Forfar Dispatch**, 26 February 2008

A family cat has been seriously wounded by an airgun pellet in **Letham**, Angus. Vets discovered that she was the victim of an **air rifle** attack and that the pellet had penetrated through into her neck.

## Incidents involving Animals

**News & Star**, 23 February 2008

A duck has managed to survive despite being shot three times with an **airgun**. The mallard drake was found by a member of the public in **Maryport**, Cumbria. An RSPCA inspector said that the animal has suffered immensely because "someone callously decided to use him as target practice".

**This is Lancashire**, 22 February 2008

A cat was recovering in surgery after an operation after being discovered in the back garden of a house in **Halliwell**. X-rays showed that there was an **airgun** pellet in the left thigh bone which had shattered. The pellet was removed and the leg pinned.

**Sunderland Echo**, 16 February 2008

An injured cat was found by a dog walker on a football field in **South Hylton**. The cat had been shot in the head with an **airgun** and left for dead. Vets removed the pellet and the cat is now in a stable condition.

**Personal Communication**, 15 February 2008

A correspondent in **Rushden**, Northamptonshire, has told us about an **airgun** attack which has left her cat with a pellet embedded in her leg (click [here](#))

**BBC**, 13 February 2008

A swan which had been shot in the eye with an **airgun** has been rescued from a lake near **Weston-super-Mare**, Somerset. The bird is being cared for at a wildlife sanctuary.

**BBC**, 13 February 2008

A male swan which had been shot dead with an **air rifle** was found on the canal bank in **Tipton**, West Midlands. It had suffered broken bones and internal bleeding in the attack.

**The Star (Sheffield)**, 12 February 2008

One of three teenagers arrested after a spate of catapult and airgun attacks in **Platts Common**, South Yorkshire (see above) had two dead birds in his pocket. The robin and goldcrest had been shot with an **air rifle**. The youth said he was going to feed them to his ferret.

**Kent News**, 12 February 2008

A man has pleaded guilty to shooting a seagull with a **pellet gun** near his home in **Margate** in August 2007. Christopher Fraser-Nash was fined £100 and ordered to pay £600 in court costs as well as forfeiting the gun and ammunition.

**Manchester Evening News**, 11 February 2008

A cat has been scarred for life after he was nearly killed in an **air rifle** attack in **Wigan**. A pellet had narrowly missed his brain and had brushed past his eye before lodging in his right shoulder. It has been decided not to remove the pellet because surgery would be too dangerous.

## Incidents involving Animals

### **Rhondda Leader**, 31 January 2008

An **airgun** attack has left a family cat from **Tylorstown** needing surgery after a pellet was lodged in his spine. It was not possible to remove the pellet but the cat is making a reasonable recovery.

### **Scunthorpe Telegraph**, 28 January 2008

A family's pet cat has died after being shot through the spine with an **air rifle** in **Scunthorpe**. One pellet became lodged in her back and another in her stomach.

### **Evening News (Norwich)**, 19 January 2008

Treatment for a cat who was left for dead after being shot with an **airgun** close to **Mousehold Heath** in Norwich in July 2007 has cost the RSPCA £1,500. He is now on the road to recovery. Mousehold Heath has been the site of youngsters spotted playing war games with imitation guns.

### **Worcester News**, 17 January 2008

Gary Childe shot his dog four times with an **air rifle** after hitting it with a saucepan. He has been given four months in jail for causing 'incredible cruelty' to his pet. The incident occurred in May 2007 in his garden in **Stourport-on-Severn** when Childe got home from the pub to find his pet having a fit in the back garden. The dog was put to sleep at a vets when Childe claimed it had been attacked by his other dog.

### **Malvern Gazette**, 17 January 2008

A kitten was found lying injured in a box in the garden of his home in **Malvern**. She had been shot with an **airgun** leaving a pellet lodged near her spine. It is thought that someone may simply have used the kitten for target practice. The kitten is slowly recovering.

### **Mansfield Chad**, 15 January 2008

A cat is recovering after being shot in an **airgun** attack in the area of its home in **Mansfield**. Vets removed a pellet from its flank.

### **Bucks Free Press**, 10 January 2008

A cat was shot in the chest with an **air rifle** in **Chalfont St Peter**. The pellet became lodged on the opposite side of her chest, and vets said that it was "a miracle" the pellet missed all of her major organs.

### **This is Wiltshire**, 3 January 2008

A pet cat from **Trowbridge** has been shot in the neck with an **air rifle**. It is the second time in the last few months that she has been targeted.