

# AIRGUN INCIDENTS

2009



Compiled by Gun Control Network  
Last update – 31 December 2009

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.
- There have been four fatalities, a teenager who was shot with an air rifle in his garden, a 5-year-old boy killed with an air rifle in the grounds of a house he was visiting, a 10-year-old who was shot whilst playing "cowboys and Indians" and a woman who killed herself a day after purchasing an air rifle.

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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

**BBC**, 5 November 2009 \*†

The death of a teenage girl shot in the eye with an **air rifle** in **Bury** in December 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) was an accident, a coroner has ruled. The owner of the gun, which was faulty, "didn't have a clue it was loaded". The victim was shot in the eye after another man had been looking at the gun and it fired a pellet as he put it down. Three men were cleared of firearms charges in September 2009 (see [Incidents](#)).

**BBC**, 28 September 2009 \*

A 10-year-old boy has died after he was shot with an airgun in **Llansamlet**, Swansea. The police are not treating the death as suspicious, but a 12-year-old is helping police inquiries. It was reported that he was shot in the chest with his father's **air pistol** during a game of cowboys and Indians (*Times*, 29 September 2009). A coroner has returned a verdict of accidental death (see [February 2010 Incidents](#)).

**Worcester News**, 22 September 2009 †

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

**Guardian**, 25 August 2009 \*

A 5-year-old boy has died after being shot in the head with an **air rifle** in the grounds of a house in **Fovant**, Wiltshire. It is reported that the owner of the house helped the victim's brothers and his own two grandsons set up a firing range and that the range had been supervised at all times. Despite this alleged supervision the boy got caught in the crossfire (*Sky News*, 27 August 2009).

**Sky News**, 21 March 2009 \*

A teenage boy has been shot dead with an **air rifle** in an incident at an address in **Hayes**, west London. It appeared that the weapon went off "by mistake" during target practice. No arrests have been made. The boy was aged 15 and was playing with his older brother and his brother's friend at the family home (*Daily Mail*, 22 March 2009).

## OTHER INJURIES

### ENGLAND

**BBC**, 31 December 2009

A man was shot in the head with an **air rifle** as he used a cash machine in **Whalley Range**, Greater Manchester. He was shot at from a nearby block of flats. The victim was taken to hospital where he had to undergo surgery to remove a pellet. An airgun was seized from a flat and a man arrested on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm with intent.

**News & Star**, 25 December 2009

A resident who went outside to investigate someone who was firing an air weapon at windows on the street in **Workington**, Cumbria, was shot with an **air rifle**. The victim was taken to hospital for treatment but the extent of the injuries is not known.

**Manchester Evening News**, 17 December 2009

A man who was collecting money for charity next to a float carrying Father Christmas was hit by a pellet from an **air rifle** in **Cadishead**, Manchester. The victim was not hurt.

**This is South Devon**, 12 December 2009

Police are investigating a claim that a man was shot with an **airgun** in **Ellacombe**, Devon. They received a phone call from the victim to say he had been hit in the leg.

**Beeston Today**, 3 December 2009

Repair workers on a railway line in **Middleton**, West Yorkshire, were shot at with an **airgun**. One of the workers was struck on the wrist by a pellet.

**Cambs 24**, 12 November 2009

A man has been shot and injured with an **air rifle** while walking along a street in **Eaton Socon**, Cambridgeshire. He was left with a mark on his back after the pellet lodged in his fleece jacket but did not pierce his skin.

**Norwich Evening News**, 11 November 2009 †

An elderly woman was shot in the head with an **airgun** at a car boot sale at **Costessey**, Norwich. She sustained heavy bleeding and was drifting in and out of consciousness until paramedics arrived. It is believed that a pellet was fired while the gun was being examined by a buyer. Two men, believed to be a stallholder and a man interested in buying the weapon, were arrested for assault and bailed.

**The Star**, 9 November 2009

A taxi driver has been shot with an **airgun** in his cab in **Highfield**, Sheffield. He was attacked as he collected a fare. He was taken to hospital and later discharged. Five men were arrested and bailed pending further enquiries.

**Southport Visiter**, 3 November 2009

A man was shot in the stomach with an **air pistol** in the centre of **Southport**, Merseyside. He was taken to hospital for treatment and released a few hours later. Seven men were arrested on suspicion of wounding.

**Knutsford Guardian**, 21 October 2009

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

**Midhurst and Petworth Observer**, 20 October 2009

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

**Hemel Today**, 15 October 2009 \*

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

**Herald (Plymouth)**, 6 October 2009 \*

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

**Lancaster Guardian**, 2 October 2009

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

**Weston & Somerset Mercury**, 1 October 2009

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

**MK News**, 30 September 2009 †

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

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

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

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

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

**Melton Times**, 16 September 2009 \*†

A sniper armed with an **air rifle** caused panic at a toddler's birthday party in **Melton Mowbray**, Leicestershire. The culprit fired at a group of children on a trampoline. Shots ripped through the trampoline hitting a 3-year-old girl on the inner thigh causing her to bleed. Two 2-year-old boys were also hit in the chest leaving red wounds. Two pellets were found.

**Herald Express**, 16 September 2009

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

**Whitchurch Herald**, 2 September 2009 \*†

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

**Milton Keynes Citizen**, 26 August 2009 †

A young woman has been shot by an **airgun** sniper in **Woburn Sands**, Bedfordshire. The pellet penetrated the victim's neck next to the carotid artery and lodged itself just short of her spinal cord. Its position is so risky that doctors dare not remove it.

**Lancashire Telegraph**, 24 August 2009

A man who was boarding up a window on the back of a property in **Burnley**, Lancashire, was shot in the face with an **airgun**. The pellet hit him in the face and lodged in his temple. The pellet has yet to be removed while doctors decide what action to take.

**News & Star**, 22 August 2009 \*†

A 5-year-old girl who was shot in the head with an **air rifle** in **Workington**, Cumbria, is lucky to be alive according to her mother. The shot hit her above her ear as she was playing within shouting distance of the house. She was taken to hospital but was able to return home after treatment.

**This is Nottingham**, 18 August 2009 \*

A 16-year-old boy is recovering in hospital after he was shot, probably with an **air rifle**, in **Mansfield Woodhouse**, Nottinghamshire. He was walking with friends when he felt a pain in his back. A hospital examination showed that an object, suspected to be a pellet, had lodged close to his kidney. Police are warning anyone with an air rifle or pellet gun that shooting at someone can have potentially life threatening consequences.

**Get Surrey**, 17 August 2009

A cyclist riding in **Titsey**, Surrey, was apparently shot at with an **air rifle** and struck in the neck. The victim was then passed by a car containing three men whom he heard laughing.

**Evening Courier**, 15 August 2009 \*

A teenager was punched and pistol-whipped with the butt of an airgun during an attack on **Beacon Hill**, Halifax, West Yorkshire. He had been approached by a gang of five teenagers, one of whom was holding what is believed to have been an **air rifle**. When he tried to calm the situation he was hit with the butt end of the weapon.

**Spenborough Guardian**, 13 August 2009

A man was shot in the leg with an **air rifle** and beaten unconscious as he walked home with his wife at **Liversedge**, West Yorkshire. After he was shot he shouted to see if anyone was in nearby undergrowth and two youths ran out and beat him over the head with what he believes was the butt of the gun.

**Dorset Echo**, 11 August 2009 \*

An 18-year-old was walking with a friend along a trail in **Weymouth**, Dorset, when he was shot in the leg with an **airgun**. It is believed that more shots may have been fired as he fled. He was taken to hospital. There appeared to be a pellet under his skin.

**Chad (Mansfield)**, 11 August 2009 \*

A young woman was left bleeding when she was shot with an **air rifle** as she waited for her boyfriend near a taxi rank in **Mansfield**, Nottinghamshire. She has been left with a broken arm and suspected nerve damage. A 16-year-old has admitted the shooting and been given a community order and will be electronically tagged. His parents have been ordered to pay £1000 in compensation to the victim (see [December 2009 Incidents](#)).

**Tamworth Herald**, 10 August 2009 †

Police are trying to trace a woman who, in June 2009, called to report that she had been shot by an **air rifle** while walking through a park in **Tamworth**, Staffordshire. She said she had been shot in the arm.

**Northern Echo**, 5 August 2009 \*†

A teenager was shot in the head with an **air rifle** as she walked with her friend in the **Skerne Park** area of Darlington, County Durham. She was hit in the forehead and the pellet narrowly missing her eye socket.

**South London Press**, 30 July 2009 \*†

A 12-year-old girl has been shot in the leg with an **airgun** or **BB gun**. She was playing in a park in **Streatham**, south London, at the time of the attack which involved two teenage boys.

**Dorset Echo**, 29 July 2009

A man walking his dog in **Weymouth**, Dorset, was hit on the side of his head, just above his eye with an **airgun** pellet. There has been a recent spate of seagull shootings in the area.

**This is Local London**, 24 July 2009 \*

A teenager suffered a puncture wound to his chest caused by an **air rifle** after being shot in **Bromley**, south London. He was taken by air ambulance to hospital where his injuries were described as non-life threatening.

**Press Association**, 22 July 2009

A man suffered minor injuries when he was shot in the head with an **airgun** pellet in **Soho**, central London. He was treated at the scene.

**Sunderland Echo**, 20 July 2009

A man was shot in the head as he made his way home in **Sunderland**. The victim was taken to hospital where an **airgun** pellet was removed from his skull.

**This is Wiltshire**, 14 July 2009 \*

A 15-year-old shot himself in the hand with an **air rifle** while he was out rat-catching on a farm near **Melksham**, Wiltshire. He was treated in hospital where the pellet was removed from his hand.

**This is Croydon Today**, 5 July 2009

A man was shot in the shoulder in **Norbury**, south London. Early reports suggest the man was shot by a pellet or **airgun**.

**BBC**, 2 July 2009

A man was found with superficial injuries to his upper body, believed to be caused by an **airgun**, after a shooting in **Norris Green**, Liverpool. Detectives are investigating whether he was the victim of a targeted attack.

**Teletext**, 24 June 2009 \*†

A teenage woman was awaiting surgery to have a pellet from an **airgun** or a small bullet removed after she was shot while attending a party in **Doncaster**, South Yorkshire. Her injuries were not thought to be life-threatening.

**East Anglian Daily Times**, 24 June 2009

An angler who was fishing at night in **Fornham St Martin**, Suffolk, with a friend was approached by a cyclist dressed in camouflage who then shot him on the back of the thigh with an **air rifle** before riding off. It is thought that the gunman may have been out hunting rabbits in the area.

**Stroud News & Journal**, 22 June 2009

Police have warned young people and parents to be aware of the dangers of BB guns and air pistols after a member of the public reported that he had been hit by an **airgun** pellet whilst walking in woods in **Stroud**, Gloucestershire.

**BBC**, 18 June 2009

A firefighter attending a suspected arson attack at a scrapyards in **Chadderton**, Greater Manchester, had to dive out of the way after a gang shot him with an **air rifle**. He saw a boy pointing the gun at him and threw himself out of the way as the pellet flew past and embedded itself in a nearby car.

**Derby Evening Telegraph**, 1 June 2009 \*

Two teenagers were struck with suspected **airgun** pellets in separate incidents as they walked along the same street in **Derby**. Police said that the two incidents were being linked. In the first a 14-year-old boy was hit in the chest, in the second a 16-year-old was hit in the foot.

**Manchester Evening News**, 19 May 2009

A van driver was shot in the leg and arm by pellets fired from an **air rifle** as he made a bread delivery in **Atherton**, Lancashire. He was left with minor wounds. Two men and a teenage woman are being questioned by the police. Two men have been sent to jail for nine months (see [February 2010 Incidents](#)).

**Derby Evening Telegraph**, 19 May 2009 \*

A golfer was shot with an **air rifle** while playing a round of golf in **Sinfin**, Derby. He was hit by a pellet on the hip. In a second incident in **Sinfin Moor** a 15-year-old boy was shot twice in the leg.

**Newham Recorder**, 15 May 2009

A road in **East Ham**, east London, was sealed off after reports were made to police that a man had been shot with an **air rifle**. There was evidence of blood in the area on a pavement but it was reported that one man had received minor injuries in a minor incident.

**Oxford Mail**, 14 May 2009 \*

A 16-year-old suffered minor injuries when he was shot with an **airgun** during a mass brawl in the centre of **Oxford**. Earlier two people were robbed in **Jericho**, Oxford, by two youths, one of whom was armed with an airgun. A 17-year-old has been arrested on suspicion of robbery and assault.

**BBC**, 12 May 2009 †

A woman was shot with an **air rifle** as she filled up her car with petrol at a supermarket in **Bulwell**, Nottinghamshire. The woman's stomach was punctured by the pellet and she was taken to hospital after the attack.

**Coventry Telegraph**, 6 May 2009 \*

A 16-year-old boy was shot in the face when an **airgun** went off. He was examining the revolver-type weapon with a friend at an address in **Bulkington**, Warwickshire, when the gun went off. A pellet was fired into the boy's chin. Police have issued a warning about the dangers of playing with guns.

**Coventry Evening Telegraph**, 1 May 2009

A cyclist was shot in the leg with an **airgun** as he cycled along a canal towpath between **Radford Semele** and **Offchurch** in Warwickshire. The victim had to undergo surgery in hospital.

**BBC**, 28 April 2009

A school caretaker is recovering after being shot in the forehead with an **air weapon** in **Middlesbrough**. The previous week cars parked at the school were targeted in a similar attack.

**BBC**, 25 April 2009 \*†

An 11-year-old girl was shot with an **airgun** in **Huyton**, Merseyside, as she queued at an ice cream van. A youth on a bike fired the pellet at her. She was taken to hospital but is now recovering at home.

**BBC**, 23 April 2009 \*

A man suffered leg injuries when he was shot with an **air rifle** in **Whitehaven**, Cumbria. The shot was fired by a man seen getting out of a car.

**This is Lincolnshire**, 22 April 2009 †

An 18-year-old woman was shot with an **airgun** as she walked along a street in **Wyberton**, Lincolnshire. She was taken to hospital where a pellet was removed.

**BBC**, 20 April 2009

Two teenagers have been arrested after a man was hit by an **airgun** pellet as he walked along a street in **Loughborough**, Leicestershire. The victim was treated in hospital for minor injuries to his leg.

**BBC**, 15 April 2009

A man was shot in the eye with an **airgun** pellet as he was searching for his dog in a park in **Luton**, Bedfordshire. The pellet is lodged in his eye and he will have to undergo an operation to remove it later. Police said he would require further treatment for several months.

**Harwich & Manningtree Standard**, 13 April 2009 †

A woman was shot in the head with an **airgun** pellet in **Harwich**, Essex. At the time she was with her husband and son, a parliamentary Labour candidate. She was taken to hospital and needed stitches after the pellet was removed.

**Bury Times**, 3 April 2009 †

Two boys aged 17 and 10 have been arrested for causing grievous bodily harm with intent after a woman was shot in the hand with an **air weapon**. The victim was taken to hospital where surgeons removed a pellet from her finger. She says she feared for her baby's life when the gun was fired at them whilst she stood at a bus stop in **Rainscough**, Greater Manchester. The boys have been bailed pending further inquiries (*BBC*, 4 April 2009).

**BBC**, 3 April 2009 \*†

A young girl was shot in the leg with an "**air rifle**-style pellet" while walking with her mother in **Frimley**, Surrey. She was taken to hospital where an x-ray revealed the pellet.

**BBC**, 1 April 2009 †

A woman was taken to hospital for treatment after she was shot in the head in her garden in **Lincoln** with what police believe was an **air rifle**. It is not believed her injuries are life-threatening.

***This is Staffordshire***, 30 March 2009 \*

An 8-year-old boy was shot in the head with an **air rifle** while riding his mini-motorbike in a field behind his father's house in **Crewe**, Cheshire. The boy was taken to hospital where he received stitches to his forehead. A pellet had lodged in his helmet, which, his father believes, saved his son's life.

***Kent Online***, 27 March 2009 †

A woman was taken to hospital after being injured in an incident involving an **air rifle** in **Sheerness**, Kent. The shooting happened close to a primary school and the victim is believed to be an employee.

***BBC***, 26 March 2009 \*†

A 13-year-old girl is recovering after being shot in the neck with an **airgun** pellet. The attack occurred as she was talking to friends in **Anfield**, Liverpool. She had surgery to remove the pellet from her neck.

***Grantham Journal***, 11 March 2009

A PCSO was shot in the back by an **air rifle** while on duty in the centre of **Grantham**, Lincolnshire. The victim was protected from injury by the 'stab vest' he was wearing. The shot was fired from a first floor window. A man has been arrested on suspicion of using a firearm with the intent to endanger life. He has been charged with common assault and firing an air weapon beyond a premises (*Grantham Journal*, 12 March 2009).

***The Citizen (Preston)***, 6 March 2009 †

Passers-by were shot at with an **air rifle** in **Longridge**, Lancashire. Two women suffered minor injuries after they were hit whilst walking. Two teenagers, aged 16 and 17, have been arrested in one of the flats from which the shots were fired.

***Crewe Chronicle***, 17 February 2009

A man was shot in the chest with an **air rifle** in **Nantwich**, Cheshire. He was taken to hospital. His injuries were not life-threatening. The victim was walking when the shot was fired from a car (*The Sentinel*, 17 February 2009).

***Chester Chronicle***, 11 February 2009 \*†

A group of teenagers, aged around 15, were shot at with an **air rifle** as they stood on a street in **Blacon**, Chester. Three of them were shot, a girl and a boy were hit in the legs and a third victim was hit in the face. None of them was seriously injured but the police said that the pellets could have caused serious life-changing injuries.

***Romford Recorder***, 9 February 2009 \*

A 16-year-old was shot in the face when an **air rifle** was fired at him in a park in **Collier Row**, east London. The pellet was removed under anaesthetic but the victim "could have been dead" if he was hit inches higher in the eye.

***Evening Gazette***, 29 January 2009 \*

A 17-year-old youth was hit with an **airgun** pellet as he was walking home in **Middlesbrough**. He felt a pain in his right hand and later had an airgun pellet removed in hospital.

**BBC**, 23 January 2009 †

A woman was hit on her arm with a pellet fired from an **airgun** as she was walking in **Wellingborough**, Northamptonshire. Shortly afterwards a man walking in the same area was hit in the foot.

**This is Cornwall**, 7 January 2009 \*†

A 14-year-old girl was shot in the arm as homes and cars were fired at with an **airgun** on an estate in **Truro**, Cornwall. Police have seized one of the guns, believed to have been given as a Christmas present, but are concerned another may also have been used.

## SCOTLAND

**Teletext**, 11 October 2009 †

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

**BBC**, 24 July 2009 †

A woman has been shot with an **airgun** pellet as she was walking at **Ardcroy**, Inverness-shire. She was not seriously injured. Police officers wish to speak to a group of youths seen nearby at the time.

**Evening Telegraph and Post**, 6 July 2009 \*

A 14-year-old is undergoing surgery to have a pellet removed from his chest cavity after being shot with an **airgun** in **Dundee**. A 16-year-old has been arrested and charged in connection with the incident.

**Daily Record**, 2 July 2009 \*†

A 5-year-old girl is being treated in hospital after being shot in the neck with an **air rifle** whilst playing with her brother and an uncle at her home in **Muirhouse** in Motherwell, Lanarkshire. Two air rifles were later removed. A man has been arrested in connection with the incident.

**Evening Express**, 22 June 2009

A golfer was shot with an **air rifle** on a course in **Aberdeen**. The pellet caused bruising to the victim's leg.

**Hamilton Advertiser**, 18 June 2009

An angler needed hospital treatment after he was hit in the head by a pellet fired from an **air weapon** in **Bellshill**, Lanarkshire. He was fishing with friends who were forced to dive for cover during the incident. Two men will be subject to a report to the Procurator Fiscal in connection with the incident.

**Evening Times**, 27 May 2009 \*

Mail deliveries have been halted on a street in **Barrhead**, East Renfrewshire, after a postman was shot with an **airgun**. The victim is thought to have lost a tooth and suffered an injury to his eyebrow and had to be treated in hospital. A man has been jailed after pleading guilty to recklessly discharging an air pistol at another person and striking his victim on the head with ball bearings (see [September 2009 Incidents](#)).

**Teletext**, 23 April 2009 †

A woman has been treated in hospital for a facial injury after an **airgun** was fired at her in **Aberdeen**.

## WALES

**Wales on Sunday**, 19 April 2009 \*

A 14-year-old boy from **Pentre**, Flintshire, has suffered serious burns after an aerosol canister exploded. He had shot the aerosol with an **airgun** in his back garden.

**BBC**, 6 April 2009

One footballer was shot in the neck and another in the stomach with **airgun** pellets at the end of a cup match between Gwent League sides **New Inn** and Sebastopol.

## THREATENING BEHAVIOUR

### ENGLAND

**The Sun**, 26 December 2009

A man has been accused of stealing several hundred pounds after waving an **airgun** at staff at a restaurant in **Colchester**, Essex. He was caught whilst eating at the restaurant 20 minutes later. He has been charged with possessing a weapon in a public place, theft and using threatening behaviour in a public place.

**Hampshire Chronicle**, 3 December 2009

Staff at a kebab van were threatened with an **air rifle** in **Otterbourne**, Hampshire. The threats followed an argument and a struggle when food was thrown around the van.

**Welwyn & Hatfield Times**, 18 November 2009

Two people were threatened at gunpoint at a home in **Hatfield**, Hertfordshire. The weapon was reported to be an **airgun**. A man has been arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm in a public place.

**Berrow's Worcester Journal**, 9 November 2009

A man armed with an **air rifle** and a knife chased youths who were throwing eggs at passing cars near an estate in **Stourport**, Worcestershire. He is believed to have been a car driver who stopped his vehicle and then gave chase after borrowing a push bike from another man.

**Kingsbridge Today**, 26 October 2009

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

**BBC**, 20 October 2009

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

**Garstang Courier**, 14 October 2009

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

**Beeston Today**, 5 October 2009

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

## Threatening Behaviour

***This is Walsall***, 1 October 2009

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

***Evening Courier***, 29 September 2009

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

***Louth Leader***, 21 September 2009

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

***BBC***, 7 September 2009

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

***Guardian (Epping Forest, Waltham Forest, Wanstead & Woodford)***, 21 August 2009

An **air rifle** was fired in a store at a petrol station in **Chingford**, north east London. The armed man fled the scene. No one was injured.

***Kent Online***, 17 August 2009

Two men armed with a knife and an **air weapon** burst into a store in **Tonbridge**, Kent. One member of staff was punched in the face before the men escaped with cash and bottles of alcohol.

***Cumberland News***, 7 August 2009

Children as young as six playing on wasteland in **Houghton**, Cumbria, have been threatened by youths with **air rifles**. This follows the shooting of a cat in the area (see below).

***News & Star***, 4 August 2009

Staff at a supermarket in **Workington**, Cumbria, were shot at as they unloaded a delivery. It is believed they were targeted with pellets from an **air rifle**.

***Derby Evening Telegraph***, 4 August 2009

A pellet fired from an **airgun** at a pensioner in **Littleover**, Derby, narrowly missed the man's head. The police took the pellet away.

## Threatening Behaviour

**Ealing Gazette**, 20 July 2009

A man appeared in court accused of possessing a firearm and making threats to fill following an incident in **Ealing**, west London. His arrest followed reports that a man was threatening and harassing another man with an **airgun**. The incident was alleged to be a landlord-tenant dispute.

**The News**, 16 July 2009

A man arrested in April 2009 at his home in **Clanfield**, Hampshire, on suspicion of possessing an **air weapon** to cause fear and violence has been rebailed.

**BBC**, 5 July 2009

A man was arrested after police responded to reports of a man with a firearm in **Hertford**. A firearm was handed over. A man has been charged with possession of an **air weapon** and intent to cause fear and violence (*BBC*, 6 July 2009).

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 30 June 2009

A man armed with what is thought to have been an **air rifle** and a knife stole money from a store in **Preston**, Lancashire. He threatened to shoot at members of the public who were at the scene. The shopkeeper was hurt after grappling with the man. A man has been convicted of robbery and possession of an imitation firearm and a knife and jailed for seven years (see [January 2010 Incidents](#)).

**Maidenhead Advertiser**, 16 June 2009

An 18-year-old and a 16-year-old have been arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm after an incident in **Shurlock Row**, Berkshire. Police were called following a report that shots had been fired from a pellet gun by occupants of a passing car. They believe that the shots were fired from an **air rifle** or **BB gun**.

**Coventry Telegraph**, 2 June 2009

A man has been charged with possession of an **air weapon** with intent, attempted wounding, violent disorder, production of cannabis and possession of prohibited ammunition following an altercation in a supermarket car park in **Rugby**. Three men and a woman were also arrested on suspicion of assault and drug offences.

**BBC**, 31 May 2009

A woman fled a flat in **Weymouth**, Dorset, with her baby after claiming her husband had a gun. Armed officers and negotiators arrived at the home and persuaded the man to give himself up after about three hours. An **air rifle** and **shotgun** were seized. A man was arrested on suspicion of making threats to kill. Martyn Hannaford has been ordered to keep the peace and to pay £500 for breaching a previous order to keep the peace. He had returned home drunk and his wife overheard him say he had an air rifle and was going to shoot the baby then her (*Dorset Echo*, 2 June 2009).

**Oxford Mail**, 14 May 2009

A 16-year-old suffered minor injuries when he was shot with an **airgun** during a mass brawl in the centre of **Oxford**. Earlier two people were robbed in **Jericho**, Oxford, by two youths, one of whom was armed with an airgun. A 17-year-old has been arrested on suspicion of robbery and assault.

**Northants Evening Telegraph**, 14 May 2009

Eyewitnesses described seeing a man, wielding an axe and what appeared to be an **air rifle**, preventing firefighters from tackling a fire which had taken hold in a house in **Kettering**. A man has been charged after a suspected arson attack.

**This is Wiltshire**, 5 May 2009

Three men, two of whom were teenagers, were released on police bail after being arrested in connection with an incident at a convenience store in **Staverton**, Wiltshire. An **airgun** was pulled on a resident inside the shop but he grabbed the barrel and wrestled the youth to the ground (*Sun*, 12 May 2009). The men were all arrested on suspicion of attempted robbery.

**This is Gloucestershire**, 28 April 2009

William Maskell has pleaded guilty to firing an **air rifle** into the street from his bedroom window in **St Mark's**, Cheltenham. A shot hit a lamppost near where two witnesses were standing. He claimed to have been trying to hit a pigeon. Maskell was given a £200 fine and the bench also ordered the forfeiture and destruction of the air rifle.

**Hull Daily Mail**, 27 April 2009

A man has been charged with two counts of common assault and possession of an **air weapon** after allegedly being seen with a gun in west **Hull**.

**BBC**, 17 April 2009

Engineers who turned up to fix an electrical fault at a caravan site near **Belbroughton**, Worcestershire, had to leave when a resident confronted them with an **air rifle**. West Mercia Police say that advice has been given to the air rifle owner. The engineers returned later, but in the meantime up to 200 homes were without power.

**Watford Observer**, 26 March 2009

A man has been shot at with an **air rifle** as walked along a street in the centre of **Watford**, Hertfordshire. He was targeted by a man in a neighbouring flat, and then verbally abused and threatened as he ran away.

**Evening Gazette**, 23 March 2009

A man has denied a firearm offence after he was arrested by armed police on a street in **Middlesbrough**. He pleaded not guilty to possession of a firearm, an **air pistol**, with intent to cause fear of violence. The incident apparently involved a dispute over a taxi fare.

**BBC**, 20 March 2009

A man has been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm after a group of youths was allegedly threatened in **Alcester**, Warwickshire. An **air weapon** was recovered. The suspect has been released on bail.

**Surrey Herald**, 5 March 2009

A woman from **Cobham**, Surrey, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, has spoken about how she has been terrorised by gangs of youths for 15 years. She has now been shot at by an **air rifle**. She has lodged a formal complaint against the police claiming the force's response to antisocial behaviour in the area is inadequate.

## Threatening Behaviour

**Evening Chronicle**, 17 February 2009

Two men have been charged with affray following an incident in **Ashington**, Northumberland. Police seized an **air rifle** and two knives.

**Birmingham Mail**, 17 February 2009

Two police officers are to be honoured for disarming a gunman in a street in **Dudley**, West Midlands, in October 2008. They persuaded the man to lay down his gun, a **replica air weapon**, which was a copy of a Glock used in the police force's own firearms operations. The gunman was charged with firearms operation but was later found to be suffering from mental health issues.

**Manchester Evening News**, 3 February 2009

A man has been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after reports that shots were fired from the window of a flat in the centre of **Manchester**. It is understood the shots were fired from an **airgun**.

**Birmingham Mail**, 28 January 2009

A man was terrorised at gunpoint during an incident in **Smethwick**, West Midlands. The victim had confronted youths over **airgun** pellets being fired in the area.

**Mercury (Hertfordshire)**, 12 January 2009

A man has appeared in court charged with having an imitation firearm in a public place after allegedly being in possession of an **air pistol** in **Turnford**, Hertfordshire. He has pleaded not guilty.

**BBC**, 7 January 2009

Armed police were called to an apartment block in **Hatherleigh**, Devon, after reports that a man, believed to be armed with an **airgun**, had been making threats. A man has been arrested on suspicion of making threats to kill, arson and harassment (*Fleetwood Weekly News*, 8 January 2009).

## SCOTLAND

**BBC**, 17 December 2009

A man has been arrested over an alleged firearm incident which happened in **Castlebay** on the island of Barra in the Outer Hebrides. The arrest followed reports from members of the public that a man was carrying a gun. He is alleged to have threatened to shoot police officers with an **air rifle**. He faces two charges relating to this and a further charge of having the rifle with intent to commit robbery.

**BBC**, 17 July 2009 \*

Two men with a gun escaped with thousands of pounds in cash after an armed raid on security guards at a petrol station in **Newmains**, North Lanarkshire. A man has admitted being involved in the raid. The weapon used was found to be an **airgun** (see [December 2009 Incidents](#)).

## Threatening Behaviour

**Irvine Herald**, 12 June 2009

A house in **Broomlands**, Ayrshire, was stormed by police after reports that shots had been fired from a window. A man was arrested and an **air rifle** allegedly recovered from the scene.

**Northern Scot**, 19 May 2009

An **airgun** was fired towards a man as he walked near a woodland area of **Dufftown**, Moray. He was not injured in the incident which is being investigated by the police.

**Paisley Daily Express**, 21 May 2009

Armed police were alerted after a security guard had challenged a man carrying a gun in the grounds of a luxury hotel in **Bishopton**, Renfrewshire. The police found a van parked a few miles from the hotel ground and an **air rifle**, believed to have been loaded, was discovered. A man was being questioned.

**Ayrshire Post**, 8 May 2009

A man threatened staff at a store in **Ayr** with what appeared to be an **airgun**. He demanded money before making off empty handed.

**Clydebank Post**, 11 February 2009

Shots were allegedly fired from an **air weapon** into a street in **Faifley**, West Dunbartonshire, and armed police were then involved in a stand off lasting an hour-and-a-half. The police discharged a taser stun gun and a man was arrested. He will appear on charges of culpable and reckless discharge of a firearm, aggravated bail, and obstructing the police.

## WALES

**Daily Post**, 27 November 2009

A court has heard how a man on trial for the murder of his ex-lover who was found stabbed in **Connah's Quay**, Clwyd, had allegedly previously held a knife to her throat and had threatened her with an **air rifle**.

**Western Mail**, 23 June 2009

Around 10 armed police officers surrounded a house in **Riverside**, Cardiff, after they were told a man living there had a handgun. The man escaped from the scene, but when the police entered his house they retrieved an **airgun**. A man has been arrested. The arrest is linked to an incident in **Grangetown**, Cardiff, in which a man was assaulted and had cash stolen (*South Wales Echo*, 24 June 2009).

**BBC**, 9 May 2009

Workmen resurfacing a road at **Llanerfyl**, Powys, have received threats and verbal abuse because of the delays to motorists, one of whom said he would use an **air rifle** to shoot them.

## Threatening Behaviour

**Barry & District News**, 12 March 2009

A street in the centre of **Barry** was sealed off by armed police after gun shots were fired. A man was arrested on suspicion of using an **air rifle**.

## SHOTS FIRED AT VEHICLES & TRAINS

### ENGLAND

**Evening Courier**, 11 December 2009

A windscreen was damaged after a car was targeted by shots, believed to have been from an **air rifle**, in **King Cross**, Halifax, West Yorkshire. Police think the gunman could have been in another vehicle.

**The Star**, 25 November 2009

A taxi driver was targeted by a man with an **air rifle** when he dropped off a fare in **Stannington**, Sheffield. He and his passengers heard a loud bang and the driver found a pellet mark on the driver's side of the cab just below the window. The police said that another vehicle had been targeted on the same evening.

**Echo**, 28 October 2009

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

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 16 October 2009

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

**Weston & Somerset Mercury**, 1 October 2009

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

**This is Walsall**, 1 October 2009

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

**MK News**, 30 September 2009

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

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

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

**Evening Courier**, 23 September 2009

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

**Get Bracknell**, 21 September 2009

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

**North Norfolk News**, 21 September 2009

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

**Leicester Mercury**, 19 August 2009

A train being driven by a driver from **Shearsby**, Leicestershire, had a window shattered by an **air rifle** pellet. The dangers posed by trespassing and vandalism on the railway were being highlighted at a Network Rail roadshow being held in **Wigston**.

**Cambridge News**, 4 July 2009

A driver was forced to duck as he saw a man in an oncoming vehicle pull out a pistol, aim and fire it at him. The incident took place on the A141 in **Hartford**, Cambridgeshire. The weapon turned out to be an **airgun**.

**The Sentinel**, 23 June 2009

Two police officers have been commended for disarming a youth who was taking pot shots at passing vehicles with an **air rifle** in **Market Drayton**, Shropshire. The incident took place in May 2008.

**Southport Visiter**, 12 June 2009

A man shot out the windows of a woman's car in **Southport**, Merseyside, with an **air rifle**. The rear and side windows were all smashed during the incident. A man was seen brandishing a weapon and was arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm and criminal damage to a car.

**West Sussex County Times**, 13 May 2009

An **airgun** pellet was fired at a bus in **Southwater**, West Sussex, shattering one of the windows. A small number of passengers were on board.

**Sunderland Echo**, 6 May 2009

A stretch limousine may have been shot at with an **airgun** in **Hendon**, Sunderland. A side window was shattered causing thousands of pounds of damage.

**Herald Express**, 24 March 2009

A sniper with an **air rifle** took a pot shot at a bus while it was being driven through **South Brent**, Devon, damaging one of the windows. No one was hurt but £150 damage was caused.

***Southern Daily Echo***, 17 March 2009

Passengers were forced to dive for cover when a bus they were travelling on in **Marchwood**, Hampshire, was targeted, probably with an **airgun**, in a drive-by shooting. The shot shattered a window.

***Hampshire Chronicle***, 19 February 2009

A bus was forced to make an unscheduled stop when it was hit by what is believed to have been an **airgun** pellet in **North Baddesley**, Hampshire. Shards of glass were splattered into the hair of a woman passenger who was uninjured but shocked. Two boys, aged no more than 12, were seen running off after the incident.

***The Journal***, 11 February 2009

A 17-year-old driver was left in shock when he and two passengers were showered in glass after a ball bearing smashed through his car window in **Chester-le-Street**, County Durham. Police believe it may have been fired from an **airgun**.

***East Anglian Daily Times***, 5 February 2009

A car has been hit by an **airgun** pellet whilst parked in **Harwich**, Essex. The damage will cost £400 to repair.

***This is Surrey Today***, 8 January 2009

Police are hunting a gunman who shot at a van in **Dorking**, Surrey. Shots were fired from an **airgun** a number of times making dents in the side of the vehicle and smashing a window.

## WALES

***Shropshire Star***, 6 May 2009

An **airgun** pellet was fired at a passing car in **Llanymynech**, Powys. No-one was hurt but police said they were "relieved" the incident was not more serious. The car door was damaged.

***South Wales Echo***, 7 September 2009

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

## VANDALISM

### ENGLAND

**Winsford Guardian**, 17 December 2009

Damage to a window in **Winsford**, Cheshire, is thought to have been caused by an **air rifle**.

**Jarrow & Hebburn Gazette**, 3 December 2009

An elderly couple have described how an **airgun** sniper shattered their dining room window in **South Shields** during a shooting spree. They found a hole in the front window and shattered glass everywhere. Three cars were damaged in streets nearby.

**Evening Courier**, 21 November 2009

A spate of damage to windows and outside lights has been caused at homes in **Rastrick**, West Yorkshire. It is believed the damage has been caused by someone using an **air rifle**.

**Winsford Guardian**, 20 November 2009

Windows in the library in **Winsford**, Cheshire, have been smashed by **airgun** pellets.

**Oldham Advertiser**, 18 November 2009

A pensioner has been left terrified after an **air rifle** was fired at her house in **Limeside** in Oldham, Lancashire. Her front room window was hit.

**Westmorland Gazette**, 14 November 2009

A car has been peppered with pellets from an **air weapon** in **Ulverston**, Cumbria. Criminal damage has been caused to the car twice in a couple of weeks.

**Peterborough Evening Telegraph**, 5 November 2009

A pub window in **Eye**, Cambridgeshire, has been smashed in an attack which may have involved an **airgun**. Other windows locally had been damaged in a similar way.

**North-West Evening Mail**, 21 October 2009

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

**Worcester News**, 14 October 2009

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

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 16 October 2009

A man is being hunted after parked cars were shot at with an **airgun** in **Leyland**, Lancashire. It is reported that the shots were fired by a cyclist.

## Vandalism

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 7 October 2009

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

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 26 September 2009

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

**Bridlington Free Press**, 17 September 2009

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

**Evening Star**, 15 September 2009

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

**Scunthorpe Telegraph**, 1 September 2009

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

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 14 August 2009

An **airgun** was used to cause three holes in the outer pane of a front window in **Dalton**, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire.

**Western Gazette**, 8 August 2009

Two sex offenders who admitted a sexual assault on a teenage boy have been attacked by vigilantes in **Crewkerne**, Somerset. They have been subjected to stone throwing and vandalism and their double glazing has been broken with what appeared to be an **airgun** pellet.

**The Star**, 23 July 2009

The home of a 90-year-old man in **Doncaster**, South Yorkshire, has been targeted by someone with a high velocity **air rifle**. A window was broken. Windows in neighbouring properties have also been broken recently.

**Great Yarmouth Mercury**, 4 July 2009

Windows of a housing estate in **Caister**, Norfolk, have been shot at with what police believe was an **airgun**. The company behind the estate are offering a reward for information leading to a conviction.

**This is Kent**, 3 July 2009

Shop signs have been shot with **air rifles** during a spate of vandalism in **Edenbridge**, Kent.

## Vandalism

**Stroud News & Journal**, 3 June 2009

A group were using the village hall in **Paganhill**, Stroud in Gloucestershire, when an **airgun** pellet was shot at one of the windows smashing the outer pane. This was the latest incidence of vandalism at the hall.

**North West Evening Mail**, 27 May 2009

Two men are on bail after they allegedly used an **air rifle** to shatter a window at a home in the centre of **Barrow**, Cumbria. They were arrested on suspicion of criminal damage.

**This is West Country**, 26 May 2009

Windows are being smashed and tyres deflated by someone armed with an **air rifle** in **Ashton**, Cornwall. A teenager has been seen with an air rifle, and police want information from people living in the village over who might have access to such a weapon.

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 23 May 2009

A window pane was damaged by pellet type missiles fired from an **air weapon** or similar in **Netherthong**, West Yorkshire.

**Swindon Advertiser**, 16 May 2009

Among a series of anti-social activities in **Pinehurst**, Swindon, a couple found an **airgun** pellet had gone through their kitchen window. The police have been criticised by a relative for failing to respond.

**Market Rasen Mail**, 13 May 2009

A window was damaged in the High Street of **Caistor**, Lincolnshire, probably by an **air weapon**.

**Boston Standard**, 4 May 2009

A speed camera on the A52 at **Leverton**, Lincolnshire, has been fired at with an **airgun**.

**Hunts Post**, 27 April 2009

Police have apologised for taking nearly two hours to attend the scene of an alleged airgun attack in **Eaton Socon**, Cambridgeshire. The rear window of a property had been shot through with what was believed was an **air rifle**.

**Ealing Gazette**, 17 April 2009

A church in **Northfields**, west London, was attacked by a vandal armed with an **airgun**. Six windows were damaged and a ball bearing was found nearby.

**Fenland Citizen**, 12 April 2009

Glass in a number of shops in **Chatteris**, Cambridgeshire, has been smashed or damaged. It is believed that a group of youths were responsible and that the damage could have been caused by an **air rifle**.

## Vandalism

**Craven Herald & Pioneer**, 31 March 2009

A double glazed door of a home in **Skipton**, North Yorkshire, has been damaged by an **airgun** pellet.

**Evening Courier**, 27 March 2009

Homes were shot at in **Boothtown** and **Claremount** in Halifax, West Yorkshire, with what is thought to have been an **air rifle**.

**The Citizen (Burnley)**, 18 March 2009

There has been a series of **airgun** shootings in **Trawden**, Lancashire, since the beginning of the year. In the latest incidents windows at a pub and a home have been broken.

**This is the West Country**, 16 March 2009

Over 30 windows at a primary school in **Trannack**, Cornwall, have been smashed. Small holes were clearly visible in the windows and airgun pellets littered the floors. Police suspect an **air rifle** was used to cause the damage which is estimated to cost the school over £1500.

**The Citizen (Blackburn)**, 4 March 2009

Thousands of pounds worth of damage has been caused to historic windows at a church in **Darwen**, Lancashire. Several **air rifle** pellets have been retrieved from the church.

**Eastbourne Today**, 3 March 2009

**Airgun** pellets have been fired at a house in **Pevensy Bay**, East Sussex, causing hundreds of pounds worth of damage. The owners were out at the time.

**This is Exeter**, 18 February 2009

Homes, bus shelters and the community centre have all been targeted in **Exwick**, Exeter. Police believe that someone with an **airgun** may be responsible.

**Whitby Gazette**, 13 February 2009

Police are investigating the possibility a pellet gun was used to shoot a hole in the window of a house in **Whitby**, North Yorkshire. An **air rifle** or a **BB gun** seems to have been used.

**Lancashire Evening Post**, 23 January 2009

Local residents are concerned about a new cycle route around Preston because it is thought it could bring further troublemaking to the area. In one case an **air rifle** was shot through the window of a home in **Fulwood**.

**Shields Gazette**, 21 January 2009

Six bus shelters in **Whitburn**, County Durham, have been vandalised. It is believed that **airguns** were used to shoot out the glass. It is the second attack in five months.

## SCOTLAND

**Evening News**, 7 October 2009

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

**Largs & Millport Weekly News**, 29 July 2009

A steel pellet was fired through the window of a cafe in **Largs**, Ayrshire. It is believed that a catapult or **airgun** may have been used.

## WALES

**Daily Post**, 18 December 2009

The stained glass windows of a church in **Minera**, Clwyd, have been damaged, probably by somebody who shot at it with an **air rifle**. A replacement could cost hundreds of pounds. A Christmas was also stolen from the church.

**Western Telegraph**, 8 June 2009

Police have appealed to anyone who saw a person carrying an **airgun** in the Prendergast area of **Haverfordwest**, Pembrokeshire, to get in touch after a window at the infants school was smashed.

**Wales Online**, 2 March 2009

Police are investigating reports that a window of the BBC Wales studios in **Cardiff** was shot with an **airgun**. A window in the front reception was reported to have been shot and smashed.

## OTHER INCIDENTS

### ENGLAND

**BBC**, 25 November 2009

Shots were fired through the window of a house in **Consett**, County Durham, and a car was also peppered with **shotgun** pellets. Police have moved a family out of the house. Two men have been arrested, and one has been charged with two other offences after an **air weapon** was found at his home (*BBC*, 27 November 2009).

**Times**, 16 November 2009

It is reported that the man arrested as part of the hunt for the "Night Stalker" in south London was a keen **air rifle** shooter who used glass bottles for target practice in his garden in **Brockley**.

**BBC**, 9 October 2009

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

**Stroud News & Journal**, 5 October 2009

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

**This is Gloucestershire**, 1 October 2009

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

**Stourbridge News**, 29 September 2009

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

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

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

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

Two police officers have been commended for stopping a man who walked into the police station in **Woodford**, Essex, from hurting himself and others with a kitchen knife and an **airgun** in June 2009.

## Other Incidents

### **Sunderland Echo**, 26 August 2009

A high-powered **air pistol** was recovered by police after a pursuit through **Sunderland**. The weapon was found on derelict land. The find followed an alleged break-in. A man has appeared in court charged with possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

### **Shields Gazette**, 26 August 2009

A man has been given a police caution for being in possession of a firearm in a public place after being spotted with an **air rifle** in **Whitburn**, Sunderland. Hours later another man was arrested after being spotted at a quarry with an air weapon.

### **Lancaster & Morecambe Citizen**, 18 August 2009

Three men who were hunting sparked a major operation after a member of the public reported seeing them with a firearm in fields near **Warton**, Lancashire. The men had an **air rifle** and the permission of the landowner so no action was taken.

### **North-West Evening Mail**, 15 August 2009

Four people were arrested after police were called to a street in **Barrow**, Cumbria, after reports of a fracas. An air weapon was seized during the incident and two women were taken to hospital with minor head injuries. The two women and two men were arrested, one of the men for possession of a firearm, namely an **air rifle**. A man has pleaded guilty to one offence of possessing a firearm when prohibited from doing so and also having a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence (see [January 2010 Incidents](#)).

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

Two men who fired an **air rifle** in a park in **South Woodford**, north east London, had their weapon seized. Children were playing in the area.

### **Cumberland News**, 7 August 2009

A 14-year-old and an older man have appeared in court charged with trespassing on land with a firearm and firing a **.22 calibre Norica air rifle** beyond the boundaries of the premises. The man also pleaded not guilty to assaulting two men. The offences are all alleged to have been committed on farmland in **Aspatria**, Cumbria.

### **BBC**, 22 July 2009

Police in **Darlington** have condemned the "indiscriminate" use of **air weapons** after being called out to more than 90 incidents since January. The number of incidents was significantly higher than usual.

### **Diss Express**, 10 July 2009

A shopper was shocked to see a rifle lying across the back seat of a car parked at a supermarket in **Diss**, Norfolk. Police seized two **air rifles** and are waiting for the Crown Prosecution to decide whether the case will go to court.

### **Pendle Today**, 8 July 2009

Councillors in **Kelbrook**, Lancashire are concerned at a recent increase **airgun** shootings in fields close to the heart of the village. A window was shattered by a pellet recently. It is suspected that it could have been done accidentally by someone taking a pot-shot at a rabbit.

## Other Incidents

### **Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 7 July 2009

A man forced to flee a house in **Moldgreen**, Huddersfield, because of constant hassle, has described how he and another group were threatened at gunpoint and his friend was shot in the leg with an **air rifle**.

### **Gazette & Herald**, 16 June 2009

Armed police were called to a street in **Chippenham**, Wiltshire, after a teenage boy was seen walking around with a loaded **air rifle**. A 17-year-old was arrested and charged with possessing an imitation firearm and having a loaded air weapon in a public place.

### **This is Wiltshire**, 9 June 2009

Police are warning people of the laws concerning firearms after a number of shots were heard being fired in the **Wellhead Drove** area of Westbury, Wiltshire. It appears that **air weapons** are being used in the area.

### **Devon 24**, 19 May 2009

Travellers who set up home in a field in **Sidmouth**, Devon, have left local residents "frightened" and "traumatised". The residents have described seeing them, among other things, brandish an **air rifle** with a telescopic sight.

### **Evening Telegraph (Peterborough)**, 5 May 2009

Police carrying weapons surrounded a group of youngsters in **Dogsthorpe**, Peterborough, after worried members of the public spotted them with a gun in a garden. The weapon turned out to be an **air rifle** which was confiscated and will now be destroyed. Police have repeated a warning that any resident brandishing a weapon risked armed police being called to the scene.

### **Shields Gazette**, 15 April 2009

A man accused of stealing a £3m book attempted to carry two guns into court in **Consett**, County Durham, while dressed as Che Guevara. He was barred from entering the court and took the **air rifle** and **air pistol** back to the limousine he arrived in.

### **Grimsby Telegraph**, 14 April 2009

A man was arrested in **Grimsby** after police received a call from the public reporting a man seen getting into a car with what looked to be a firearm. An air weapon was recovered.

### **Express & Star**, 6 April 2009

An education boss has only just found out that an **air pistol** was confiscated from a girl at a school in **Sandwell**, West Midlands, following an incident in January 2009.

### **Coventry Evening Telegraph**, 26 February 2009

Police were called after reports of two men with an **airgun** in **Tile Hill**, Coventry. The men, both men described as aged 17, were seen walking along a street holding the gun.

## SCOTLAND

*Evening Times*, 15 September 2009

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

*Hamilton Advertiser*, 9 April 2009

A man has appeared in court charged under the Explosive Substances Act 1883 and the Firearms Act. The charges follow an incident in **Motherwell** after police received a report of a man carrying a firearm outside a tower block. The man was said to be in possession of several bottles containing fluid and an **airgun**.

*Evening Telegraph & Post*, 9 April 2009

Police carried out house-to-house inquiries following a report of a man seen brandishing an air weapon in **Dundee**. He was seen in a grassy area near a roundabout with what appeared to be an **air rifle** with an orange strap.

## WALES

*South Wales Echo*, 3 June 2009

Police in **Rhose**, South Glamorgan, have reminded people that 18 is the minimum age at which you may buy, hire or be given an **airgun** or travel with it unaccompanied. The reminder follows reports of people seen carrying the weapons in public spaces.

## THEFTS, RECOVERIES & HAND-INS

### ENGLAND

**BBC**, 31 December 2009

Two **air rifles** were among items stolen from a farm in **Kington**, Worcestershire.

**Leicester Mercury**, 16 December 2009

Three **air rifles** and an **imitation firearm** were among weapons recovered by police during raids in the **Hinckley** and **Bosworth** areas of Leicestershire. Eight people were arrested.

**West Yorkshire Police**, 20 November 2009

The police found 12 live shotgun cartridges, a number of **air weapons** and other weapons at a house in **Halton Moor**, Leeds, where they also found £40,000 of drugs. Four people, including two teenagers, were arrested.

**Sunderland Echo**, 14 November 2009

Two **air weapons**, believed to be a rifle and a pistol, counterfeit designer clothing and a quantity of drugs were seized by police in raids on four addresses in **Pennywell** and **South Hylton**, Sunderland. Two women and a man have been arrested.

**The Argus**, 10 November 2009

Two men burgled and attacked an elderly couple at their home in **Hadlow Down**, Sussex. They ransacked the house and stole two **shotguns**, two **air rifles**, together with other items including the couple's car.

**This is Wiltshire**, 8 October 2009

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

**Hemsworth and South Elmsall Express**, 7 October 2009

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

**This is Lincolnshire**, 2 October 2009

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

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 30 September 2009

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

**Bolton News**, 11 September 2009

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

## Thefts, Recoveries & Hand-Ins

### **Northern Echo**, 24 July 2009

Police discovered a haul of weapons, including an **air rifle** and an **air pistol**, and drugs at a property in **Hartlepool**. A man, a woman and a 15-year-old boy were arrested on suspicion of possessing class B drugs.

### **Bury Free Press**, 24 July 2009

An **air pistol** was stolen from the home of an elderly couple following a distraction burglary in **Stowlangtoft**, Suffolk.

### **Burnham-on-Sea.com**, 5 July 2009

A man has been arrested in **Highbridge**, Somerset, after police seized a haul of drugs, a crossbow, fireworks and a high-powered **air rifle**. He has been charged with a firearm offence.

### **Luton Today**, 30 June 2009

Police discovered two handguns and an **air rifle** in **Luton**, Bedfordshire, during a crackdown on gun crime. The weapons were found at separate locations.

### **Lutterworth Mail**, 25 June 2009

An **air rifle** was stolen from a car parked outside a pub in **Dunton Bassett**, Leicestershire.

### **Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 30 May 2009

An **air rifle** was stolen along with a watch and cash from a property in **Almondbury**, West Yorkshire.

### **Lincolnshire Echo**, 29 May 2009

Seven **airguns** were stolen from a house in **Lincoln**. The weapons taken were two Webley Scott Junior air pistols, a Webley Tempest air pistol, a Sheridan Benjamin gas operated air pistol, a CB40 Crossman gas operated air pistol, a Webley Scott air rifle and a Day State gas operated bolt action air rifle.

### **Reading Evening Post**, 21 May 2009

A man and a woman from **Whitley**, Berkshire, have been charged with cultivating cannabis at their home and handling stolen goods, including an **air rifle** worth £600.

### **Skegness Standard**, 7 May 2009

An **air pistol**, air pellets and telescopic sights were stolen from an unlocked garage in **Skegness**, Lincolnshire.

### **Local Guardian**, 7 May 2009

An **air rifle** was among weapons seized by police in an operation which saw nine people arrested as school pupils and passengers at stations in **Wimbledon** and **Morden**, south London, were searched.

**Evening Chronicle**, 17 April 2009

An **air rifle**, blue tablets and £600 cash was among property recovered from a property at **Swallowwell**, Gateshead.

**Rochdale Observer**, 20 March 2009

A Brocock ME38 **airgun**, a type of weapon which has been prohibited since 2004 and can be converted to fire live bullets, was discovered by police after they searched a stolen car in **Whitworth**, Lancashire. The officers also found an amount of cannabis. One man has been charged with handling stolen goods, possession of a prohibited weapon and possession of cannabis. A second man, who has been wanted for prison recall, has been returned to jail.

**BBC**, 16 March 2009

Police seized an **air pistol** and a large amount of cash when two cars were stopped in **Torquay**, Devon. Two men have been arrested on suspicion of money laundering.

**Derby Evening Telegraph**, 26 February 2009

An **air rifle** was among items stolen from a caravan in **Barrow-upon-Trent**, Derbyshire.

**Newbury Today**, 19 February 2009

Police are trying to recover three guns stolen from a storage unit in **Lambourn**, Berkshire. The guns were a modern bolt-action **airgun**, a Sharps Inova pump gun and an old German **airgun**. Electronic equipment was also taken. The police have said that the guns would be dangerous if they fell into the wrong hands.

**This is South Devon**, 12 February 2009

Police seized suspected cocaine, an **air pistol** and a **ball bearing gun** at a property in **Bovey Tracey**, Devon. A man was arrested on suspicion of possession of a controlled substance.

**Reading Evening Post**, 4 February 2009

An unlicensed **.22 air rifle** was among nearly 30 items discovered by police during a raid on a house in **Whitley**, Reading, in an operation to beat burglary.

**Kent News**, 28 January 2009

An **airgun** worth £250 and some pellets, together with a chain saw, were stolen from a car parked at a pub in **Bethersden**, Kent.

**The Journal**, 24 January 2009

A **.22 air rifle** was among items that were stolen when thieves broke into a garage at **Wynyard**, County Durham.

**Lincolnshire Echo**, 14 January 2009

An **air rifle** was stolen from a property in **Metherington**, Lincolnshire, during a burglary in which a wallet and keys were also taken.

## SCOTLAND

**Press Association**, 20 December 2009

A number of **air weapons**, including a replica AK47 rifle, were taken from a parked vehicle in **Dalkeith**, Midlothian.

**Paisley Daily Express**, 2 September 2009

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

**Evening News**, 7 July 2009

An **air rifle** was stolen by thieves who raided a caravan parked in a garden in **East Calder**, West Lothian.

## WALES

**This is South Wales**, 16 December 2009

An **airgun** and a trident were recovered by police during drugs raids in **Swansea**. Two people were arrested.

**Penarth Times**, 26 November 2009

A Weinrach **air rifle** was among a number of items stolen from an outbuilding during a burglary in **Penarth**, South Glamorgan.

**South Wales Evening Post**, 13 October 2009

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

## COURT CASES

### ENGLAND

**Newmarket Journal**, 31 December 2009

Keith Thompson was seen with a gun on a playing field in **Newmarket**, Suffolk. One witness described how he heard it being fired. Thompson was arrested and the gun shown to be a **.177 calibre air rifle**. Thompson pleaded guilty to possession of an unloaded air weapon in a public place. He said he had been shooting on private land with family members earlier that day, had been drinking and was travelling back from his sister's home. The sound was of the barrel clicking open. He was given a 12-month community order to include 40 hours unpaid work. As part of the order he was banned from carrying an air rifle.

**Newham Recorder**, 30 December 2009

Mohammed Waseem pointed an **air pistol** at his step-son, telling him "I'll kill you", as his victim was walking to work in **East Ham**, east London, in September 2009. He had bought the weapon the day before. In threatening his step-son he had broken a court order banning him from contacting his estranged wife and children. Waseem has been jailed for 15 months.

**Evesham Journal**, 29 December 2009

Steven Hinton has admitted possessing a firearm when prohibited as part of the terms of his release from a prison sentence. He was seen sitting in a bus shelter in **Pershore**, Worcestershire, with a **.22 air rifle**. A pre-sentence report was ordered. The air rifle had been bought from a friend at Pershore market.

**Evening Gazette**, 28 December 2009

A man who terrified people as he threatened to kill his ex-partner has been jailed for three years. In August 2009 John Connelly waved an **airgun** outside a home in **Middlesbrough** whilst his ex-partner climbed into the loft to hide. When police went to his home they found 68 rounds of .22 ammunition. He admitted affray and possessing ammunition without a firearm certificate. He had 54 previous offences on his criminal record.

**Sunday Mirror**, 20 December 2009

George Charlton has been jailed for seven and a half years and his son David for eight years after they were caught cutting cocaine at their house in **Gateshead**, Tyneside. Amphetamines and an **air rifle** were also found.

**Leicester Mercury**, 18 December 2009

Rico Costello mugged two homeless people at gunpoint. He was in possession of an **airgun** in the centre of **Leicester** at the time of the two incidents in August and September 2009. He also admitted assault by beating another man. Sentencing was deferred.

**Stourbridge News**, 17 December 2009

Dean Tromans fired an air rifle at a 19-year-old while he was high on drink and drugs. The victim had to undergo emergency surgery and has been told by doctors it is likely he will lose the eye. Tromans, who had previous convictions, admitted wounding and also possessing a **.22 calibre air rifle** which had been fitted with a crude silencer. He and another man used the gun for target practice using tin foil and pellets as ammunition at a premises in **Lye**, West Midlands, before turning the gun on the victim. He has been jailed for five years.

**Stroud News & Journal**, 16 December 2009

A charge of possessing a lead pellet which could be used as ammunition in an **air weapon** was dropped after a man who was banned from owning any sort of ammunition following a four year jail sentence explained how he used the pellets to add weight to his model trains. He had pleaded guilty to being in possession of a lead pellet in **Standish**, Gloucestershire, in November 2009, but the plea was disregarded. The prosecutor who revoked the charge described the move as 'highly unusual'.

**Peterborough Evening Telegraph**, 16 December 2009

Maureen Slack threatened two other women with her husband's old **air rifle**. She has pleaded guilty to two counts of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear. The incident followed harassment suffered by her and her husband at the hands of youths in her neighbourhood in **Bretton**, Peterborough. A judge ruled she was driven by stress and gave her a 12-month supervision order.

**Gazette & Herald**, 11 December 2009

Justin McDonald admitted possession of drugs and a CS gas canister, which counts as a firearm under the Firearms Act, on his narrowboat moored in **Devizes**, Wiltshire, in November 2009. He also had other weapons, including a loaded **air pistol**, but could not be charged with their possession. He was sentenced to eight weeks.

**Chad**, 9 December 2009 \*

A 16-year-old youth who shot a woman with an **air rifle** whilst she was waiting for her boyfriend following a night out in **Mansfield**, Nottinghamshire, in August 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) has claimed he had been in a back garden aiming at flowerpots. He had received the weapon as a gift and had had no training. He admitted the shooting and was given a 12-month community order and will be electronically tagged for six months. The boy's parents, who were criticised by the judge, were ordered to pay £1,000 compensation to the victim who has had to cancel a contract with a theatre company as a result of her injury.

**This is Hampshire**, 8 December 2009 \*

A 19-year-old woman from **Thornhill**, Southampton, who was high on drink and cannabis robbed a supermarket, attempted to rob two people in the street and shattered a florist's window in August 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). In the supermarket Bernice Chance had pointed an **air pistol** at a teenage assistant asking the girl whether she thought it was fake. She then pointed the gun at a man's face and used it to smash the window. Chance admitted the offences as well as being in breach of an Asbo. She was jailed for five years and received a four year extended licence.

**The Journal**, 8 December 2009

James Curry brandished a loaded **air pistol** at a police officer after he thought there was an intruder in his garden in **Hylton Castle**, Sunderland, and went to investigate. He admitted possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear. Curry who has 18 previous convictions was given a 36 week jail sentence, suspended for two years, with supervision and 150 hours of unpaid work and was put on curfew for three months.

**Evening Gazette**, 7 December 2009 \*

Two men and a 14-year-old boy robbed a teenager of his **air rifle** when he was on his way to do target practice in **Eston**, Teesside. Darren Green grabbed him and demanded the gun and Christopher Blackburn tripped the victim and knelt on him, pinning him down. The boy pulled the gun away from him and was later seen by police trying to hide the gun. Green was jailed for three years, Blackburn for two and a half years, and the boy was given a 12 months referral order. They had pleaded guilty to robbery.

**Sunderland Echo**, 5 December 2009

Physiotherapist Stephen Sterling, who has practices in **Sunderland** and **Seaham**, was given a 12-month caution by the Health Professional Council after he encouraged a road accident victim to fire an **air pistol** at a sundial as part of his treatment.

**Express & Echo**, 4 December 2009

A man has admitted assaulting a woman and possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear but has denied raping the woman and then attempting to pervert the course of justice. The attack took place on a riverbank in **Dulverton**, Somerset. The victim has described trying to fend off blows from the butt of the accused's **air rifle**. The trial continues.

**Cambridge News**, 1 December 2009

Three people appeared in court accused of firearms offences following a police investigation into a house in **Eaton Socon**, Cambridgeshire, allegedly used for drug trafficking. Powerful **air rifles**, including two which would have needed firearms certificates were found by police. Tony Chalkley admitted possessing a gun without a certificate and possessing it while prohibited because of a previous conviction and was jailed for 10 months. Thomas Roberts admitted possessing the guns without a licence and was fined £250. Chalkley's partner was given a community order with 120 hours of unpaid work. It was claimed that the weapons had belonged to one of Chalkley's brothers who had died and were being passed on to another brother.

**Evening Gazette**, 30 November 2009

Lee Kirby who was found with a **.22 air rifle** at his home in **Hemlington**, Middlesbrough, pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm within five years of his release from jail. He had received the rifle from a friend in payment for a loan. He was given a 52 week jail sentence suspended for two years with supervision and a Thinking Skills programme.

**Clitheroe Advertiser and Times**, 30 November 2009

Two men were arrested after shooting an **air rifle** at tin cans in a garden in **Clitheroe**, Lancashire, and then aiming at chimney pots and heating vents on nearby homes. One bedroom window was smashed. Carl Gillibrand admitted possession of the air rifle with scope and firing it beyond premises. Stephen Berry admitted the same charges and causing damage to the window. They were both fined £50 with £80 costs and Berry was ordered to pay £150 compensation.

**Telegraph & Argus**, 25 November 2009 \*

Anthony Scaife and his son Matthew kidnapped a woman and her 2-year-old child and kept them hostage for 24 hours. Scaife was in dispute with her over a bill for renovation work. Wearing para-military gear, the men broke into their house in **Skipton**, North Yorkshire, armed with a handgun and at least two **shotguns**, and took the mother and child away, telling the woman's husband that they would be killed if he contacted the police, but he reported the abduction five minutes later. After being kept in a joiner's workshop for hours the woman and child were dropped at the side of a road near her home. The men had pleaded guilty to conspiring to kidnap (*Yorkshire Post*, 12 November 2009). When the Scaife's home was searched an **air rifle**, double and single-barrel shotguns and a knife were found. Anthony Scaife was jailed for 12 years, his son for ten years (*Telegraph & Argus*, 8 December 2009).

**Weston & Somerset Mercury**, 22 November 2009

Vincent Martin who took a loaded **air rifle** into woods in **Weston-super-Mare**, Somerset, sparked an armed police response. He has pleaded guilty to possessing a loaded air weapon in a public place. He claimed he did not know he was breaking the law. He had bought the weapon in town for £30 planning to use it for target practice in the woods. He was given a 12 month community order and ordered to pay costs and complete 100 hours of unpaid work. The weapon will be destroyed. In May another man was caught carrying an airgun in the same woodland (see [September 2009 Incidents](#)).

**Seacroft Today**, 19 November 2009

Michael Clough brandished a handgun when he raided his local bookies in **Harehills**, Leeds. He escaped with £400 but was arrested at his flat close by. The police discovered two black handguns, an **air pistol** and a **gas-powered ball bearing gun**. He admitted robbery and possessing an imitation handgun and has been jailed for four years.

**Get Surrey**, 19 November 2009 \*

A 15-year-old from **Whyteleafe**, Surrey, shoved an **air pistol** in his victim's face when he forced the man to hand over his loose change, a cigarette lighter and a cigarette. He has been given a 12 month detention and training order after pleading guilty to robbery and using a gun in the commission of a crime. The attack, which took place in a public toilet, was staged to raise cash to pay off a drug debt.

**The Gazette**, 17 November 2009

A man who barricaded himself inside his home in **Blackpool**, Lancashire, in June 2009 was seen with an **air rifle**, which was found later not to work. Martin Grayshon has admitted affray and was sentenced to eight months imprisonment, suspended for two years, and will be supervised for 18 months.

**Fleetwood Weekly News**, 16 November 2009 \*

Angus Arthur, 18, was drunk and high on drugs when he threatened a woman with an **airgun** and stole her handbag at a music festival near **Silloth** in Cumbria in August 2009 (see [September 2009 Incidents](#)). He has admitted robbery and possessing a firearm with intent to cause robbery. Sentencing will take place in December.

**Diss Express**, 13 November 2009

William Pierce has been warned that he faces prison if he breaks his ASBO conditions and continues to make trouble for his neighbours. He admitted criminal damage and handling a gas stove and **air rifle** stolen from a shed in **Harleston**, Norfolk. He admitted threatening behaviour in the town in March 2009 when he threatened to get a **shotgun** and shoot people. He was given 12 months in prison, suspended for two years, as well as a supervision order for 12 months.

**Worksop Guardian**, 10 November 2009

Barry Thomas has admitted affray by way of threatening unlawful violence and possession of a firearm without a certificate. He threatened a man on private land near **Blyth**, Nottinghamshire, whilst in possession of a weapon and the next day when police went to his home in **Harworth** they found four **air weapons** which needed certificates. He was sentenced to six months in prison, suspended for 18 months, and ordered to do 100 hours of unpaid work.

**This is Grimsby**, 3 November 2009

Daniel Harrison has admitted possessing an **air rifle** with intent to cause fear of violence after he pointed the weapon at two men in **Grimsby**, Lincolnshire. The gun was loaded. He also admitted possessing drugs on the same day in June 2009 and a number of other offences. He has been jailed for 70 weeks.

**This is the West Country**, 28 October 2009

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

**Get Surrey**, 23 October 2009 \*

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

**Ealing Gazette**, 22 October 2009

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

**Norwich Evening News**, 14 October 2009

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

**Shields Gazette**, 10 October 2009

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

**Daily Gazette**, 10 October 2009

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

**Sunderland Echo**, 9 October 2009

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

**Warrington Guardian**, 7 October 2009

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

**Norwich Evening News**, 6 October 2009

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

**Hertfordshire Mercury**, 5 October 2009

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

**This is Bristol**, 23 September 2009

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

**Morpeth Herald**, 17 September 2009

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

**Kent Online**, 17 September 2009

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

**Manchester Evening News**, 16 September 2009

Three men have been cleared of firearms charges after the death of a teenage girl who was hit in the eye with an **airgun** pellet in **Bury** in December 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). They had been charged with possessing a firearm without a licence but the prosecution offered no evidence after detailed ballistic tests and examination showed that the .22 airgun did not require a licence. The three men were all friends of the victim. A coroner has ruled that the death was accidental (see [November 2009 Incidents](#)).

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

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

**Worcester News**, 9 September 2009

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

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

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

**Northern Echo**, 27 August 2009 \*

A teenage rat catcher has had to forfeit two guns after he admitted charges of possession of an unloaded **air rifle** and an unloaded **air pistol**. Stephen Thompson was spotted by police among a crowd in an alleyway in **Darlington** smelling of alcohol. He was told by the judge that "People are frightened of guns. To those of us not skilled in guns, from a distance an air rifle with a telescopic lens is frightening". Thompson was given a 12 month conditional discharge.

**Evening Chronicle**, 24 August 2009

Robert Collard, a drug dealer, was found with a loaded **gas powered airgun** and shotgun cartridges at his home in **Newcastle** in October 2008. He had already served a prison sentence after he was caught with a haul of weapons, including a revolver, pistols, a double-barrelled shotgun and several airguns, in 2002. He admitted firearms offences and intent to supply amphetamine. He has been given a 12 month sentence.

**St Helens Star**, 21 August 2009

William Chorlton has been given a 12-month community order for carrying an **air weapon** in a public place and at a later date failing to report to the authorities. He had been found with the weapon in **St Helens**, Merseyside, in April 2009.

**Lancashire Telegraph**, 20 August 2009

Irfan Mahmood was found in possession of an **air pistol** at a quarry in **Rosendale**, Lancashire. He was also convicted of handling a stolen motor vehicle and jailed for five years.

**Whitehaven News**, 19 August 2009 \*

Carl Elliott, 18, has pleaded guilty to assault causing actual bodily harm and admitted having a loaded firearm in a public place without lawful reason following an incident in which a man walking with others at **North Shore** in Whitehaven, Cumbria was shot in the knee with an **airgun** pellet. Sentencing was deferred.

**Echo**, 11 August 2009

In June 2008 David Aitken was caught with two air rifles and cannabis at his home in **Vange**, Essex. He was subsequently banned from owning an airgun for five years. However, in March 2009 he was spotted by a neighbour with an **air rifle** and the police found cannabis plants, an airgun and cartridges. He admitted two drug offences, three counts of possessing an air weapon when prohibited from doing so and one count of possessing ammunition for an air weapon while prohibited from doing so. He has been jailed for two years.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 8 August 2009 \*

Robert Griffiths, 18, hid two **airguns**, an **imitation firearm** and a knife in some bushes before setting up camp in a park in **Northampton**. He was inspired by television extreme survival shows. He had found the weapons in his parents' loft. He admitted two charges of possessing an airgun in a public place and one of possessing an imitation firearm, as well as one of possessing a knife. He has been warned he was facing a possible custodial sentence.

**Express & Star**, 8 August 2009

Darrin Fraser took potshots at children with an **airgun** while being encouraged by his wife, Angela Fraser. He used pellets made from paper, tin foil or cat litter. His targets were youngsters he felt were behaving badly in **Tipton**, West Midlands. Both of them admitted five counts of child cruelty and five of assault causing actual bodily harm. Darrin Fraser was jailed for three-and-a-half-years his wife for two years.

**Hemel Today**, 5 August 2009 \*

Christopher Mace, 18, was drunk when he armed himself with an imitation handgun and went on a rampage through the station at **Leighton Buzzard**, Bedfordshire. He pointed the weapon at his girlfriend, himself, three men in a car and a taxi driver. He also damaged four rental vehicles by smashing windows. He pleaded guilty to possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, criminal damage and assault on police. The weapon was a **gas-powered airgun**.

**This is Sussex**, 3 August 2009

A man, described by his own counsel as "obsessed with shooting and fishing", has been cleared of the charge of possessing a loaded air weapon in a public place. He had been arrested in March 2009 when a police patrol spotted him concealing an **air rifle** behind a tree on the edge of **Tunbridge Wells Common**, Kent. He had been shooting squirrels to feed his pet ferrets. He admitted he had been shooting on the common as friends had told him it was allowed by the Lord of the Manor of Rusthall under ancient by-laws. The landowners denied such permission existed. He was given a non guilty verdict by the magistrates as it was accepted that he was "an experienced user of airguns and has demonstrated a good knowledge of gun safety".

**This is Kent**, 31 July 2009

Kiane Trotman, a former soldier, terrified an ex-girlfriend by firing an **air rifle** into the car she was in. He pleaded guilty to charges of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and damaging property. His current girlfriend Emily Hughes who denied the charges has since been convicted. Trotman was jailed for two-and-a-half years, Hughes awaits sentence. The shooting incident took place in **Borough Green**, Kent, in December 2007.

**Evening Gazette**, 31 July 2009

Gerald Schouller fired an **airgun** at a car driven by a young woman in **Billingham**, Teesside, in February 2009. He had been in an intoxicated state at the time and was caught at the scene. He pleaded guilty to criminal damage being reckless as to whether life is endangered and having an imitation firearm in a public place. He has been jailed for two years.

**Bury Free Press**, 31 July 2009

A woman who shot a man with an **airgun**, ruining his modelling career has been given a nine month suspended prison sentence and ordered to pay £300 compensation. Donna Simpson was convicted of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. Her husband, who was also convicted, was given the same suspended jail sentence and must obey a two year supervision order. The shooting happened in **Dagenham**, east London, in October 2008 after the couple claimed the victim's dog had frightened their cat.

**Tamworth Herald**, 30 July 2009

Christopher Stephens has been found guilty of causing actual bodily harm to a 14-year-old boy in **Glascote**, Staffordshire. He produced an **airgun** after he'd asked a group of youths to 'move on' and fired it at close range. The victim received a wound to his head. Stephens was jailed for 30 months.

**BBC**, 30 July 2009

Scott Walker has been jailed for five years for shooting a man in the eye with an **air pistol**. He was involved in a row with the 19-year-old victim in **Leyland**, Lancashire, in September 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). The victim subsequently lost his eye. Walker pleaded guilty to possessing an offensive weapon.

**Telegraph & Argus**, 21 July 2009

John West, who has been jailed for stealing copper wire, has received a further six months for illegally possessing an **air rifle** at his home in **East Bowling**, Bradford. The weapon when was used to shoot vermin and rabbits, was found when police searched the property.

**Derby Evening Telegraph**, 20 July 2009

Stephen Bramwell has admitted two offences of possessing an **air rifle** without a firearms certificate, three charges of possessing ammunition without a firearms certificate and two counts of possessing missiles without the authority of the Secretary of State. In 2004 police had found 11 prohibited firearms and some ammunition at his home in **Tideswell**, Derbyshire, and he had been given a six-month suspended jail sentence. Bramwell claimed that the air rifles had been handed back to him by the police after the 2004 search. After the case the police said that one of the air rifles did not exceed the legal power limit when tested in 2004 but did when it was tested again in 2008 and this suggested that someone had tampered with the gun in the intervening four years. Bramwell was given a two-year conditional discharge for the gun offences and an 18-month community order, with supervision from the probation service, for the ammunition.

**Leicester Mercury**, 18 July 2009

Vincent Murby marched down a street in **Loughborough**, Leicestershire, and pointed his **air rifle** at shocked bystanders in March 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). He had been drinking heavily. He has admitted possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and been jailed for three years.

**Warrington Guardian**, 14 July 2009

A former police officer from **Orford**, Warrington, who admitted affray and possession of a CS gas canister had two other counts of possession of an **airgun** with intent to cause fear of violence and theft dropped.

**Witney Gazette**, 12 July 2009

David Harrison from **Banbury**, Oxfordshire, was jailed for 10 weeks after admitting possession of an **air weapon** when prohibited for five years and possessing ammunition for an air weapon.

**Kenilworth Weekly News**, 9 July 2009

Three men have been given six-month suspended sentences and 180 hours of unpaid work after an incident in **Kenilworth**, Warwickshire, in December 2008. Christopher Edwards was in his flat when he asked the other two men, who were in the street, to be quiet but then pointed his **air rifle** out of the window and threw a vase at them. This led to the other men breaking into his flat. Edwards pleaded guilty to possessing an air rifle with intent to cause fear of violence, the other two men to affray.

**Bridlington Free Press**, 9 July 2009

A man who stole four **air rifles** and other items from a home in **Bridlington**, East Yorkshire, in February and pleaded guilty to burglary in April has since failed to appear in court. Robin Burdall and another man Stuart McCaw were caught carrying an air rifle each after the burglary. McCaw was given a 12-month community order and ordered to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work.

**Sunderland Echo**, 8 July 2009

A couple from **Seaham**, County Durham, have admitted threatening a man who had earlier been assaulted by their son. David Stamp jnr had been jailed for 10 months for an incident in which the victim was threatened with a metal bar and an **air weapon**.

**This is Local London**, 6 July 2009

During the trial of Steven Stallion, who was found guilty of murdering his partner by repeatedly punching her in the head at their flat in **Dartford**, Kent, the court was told that the couple had split up briefly in 2007 after she alleged he shot her in the back with an **airgun**.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 6 July 2009

When Leon Gill's home in **Duston**, Northampton, was searched a police officer found an unfired World War Two pistol round and a hollow-pointed dum-dum bullet as well as an **air rifle**, shotgun cartridges, a knuckleduster and a flick knife. He pleaded guilty to two charges of possessing ammunition and was fined £2000 with £250 costs. The ammunition will be destroyed.

**Oxford Times**, 5 July 2009 \*

Two 18-year-olds have been jailed for an attack on another man at a crematorium in **Barton**, Oxford, in November 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). The victim received an eye injury after being shot with an **airgun**, and his injuries are both permanent and life-changing. Kam Matthews was sentenced to four and a half years after admitting causing grievous bodily harm with intent to endanger life. Cory Harry received a nine-month prison sentence after admitting committing actual bodily harm.

**Evening Gazette**, 4 July 2009

Darren Every has received a 16 month prison sentence after a young woman was shot with a semi-automatic **airgun** as she left a party in **Stockton**, Teesside, in January 2009. She received bruising to the waist. The incident followed an argument between Every's brother and the woman's friend. At the time of the incident he was banned from having any firearms for five years because of a conviction. He pleaded guilty to assault causing actual bodily harm and possessing a firearm when prohibited and with intent to cause fear of violence. It was accepted that the weapon was fired recklessly, not deliberately, and that Every did not realise it was loaded.

**Sunderland Echo**, 3 July 2009 \*

A 15-year-old armed himself with an **air rifle** and stole some chips from another youth at a takeaway in **Chester-le-Street**, County Durham, in September 2008. The weapon was discharged but no one was hurt. The teenager admitted robbery, and the case was sent back to the youth court for sentencing.

**BBC**, 3 July 2009

Soloman Tomkinson has been jailed for five and a half years after admitting a robbery at a store in **New Buckenham**, Norfolk, in October 2008. He threatened a shop assistant with an **airgun** and grabbed £425 from the till. He asked for 12 other offences to be taken into consideration. The court heard Tomkinson had a record of 78 previous offences, three committed with a handgun.

**The Press**, 27 June 2009

Gary Bridge, a former prison officer from **Ripley Castle**, North Yorkshire, has pleaded guilty to falsely imprisoning an ex-prisoner whom he got to know in prison, threatening to kill her, affray and three charges of actual bodily harm. Two charges of raping the woman were left on the file. Among incidents which took place over a number of years he held an **air rifle** to her face and threatened to kill her while her daughter watched. He committed the offences while suffering from two mental illnesses. He was given a 16-month prison sentence, suspended for two years.

**Haverhill Echo**, 25 June 2009

Matthew Stiebrins was seen pointing a .22 **air rifle** at houses in an open air car park in **Haverhill**, Suffolk. He was quite drunk and told police he was test firing the rifle into a tree. He has been warned he could face jail sentence.

**Lincolnshire Free Press**, 23 June 2009

Dean Tidswell admitted keeping a banned firearm and ammunition at his home in **Spalding**, Lincolnshire. Police found a converted **air rifle** hidden in an outbuilding. The rifle contained a .22 cartridge containing a hollow point bullet. He obtained the gun eight or ten years ago from a car boot sale. Tidswell admitted possessing a prohibited firearm and ammunition and was given a suspended 51 week prison sentence and ordered to carry out 150 hours of community punishment.

**This is Wiltshire**, 22 June 2009 \*

Daniel Garfield, 19, has admitted possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. In May 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) he brandished a **.177 calibre air pistol** when he tried to hold up a convenience store in **Staverton**, Wiltshire, while he was drunk. Sentencing was deferred.

**This is Surrey Today**, 18 June 2009 \*

A 17-year-old from **Earlswood**, Surrey, who fired an **air rifle** out of his window could face custody after breaching his ASBO for the sixth time. A neighbour heard a twanging noise and when police investigated they found four teenagers, including Dean Turner, in a bedroom and an air rifle was found in Turner's room. He claimed the gun was empty and he had been firing it at the window instead of out of the window. He was found guilty of breaching his ASBO and was sentenced to two months detention in a Young Offenders Institute (*Redhill, Reigate, Horley Life*, 8 July 2009).

**BBC**, 18 June 2009

Daniel Dodsworth fired **air rifle** pellets into the wall, floor and sofa of the home he shares with his girlfriend and daughter in **Darlington**, County Durham. He had drunk eight cans of lager and a bottle of wine before firing the weapon in March 2009. He admitted affray and was given a nine-month suspended sentence.

**Gazette**, 17 June 2009 \*

Ashley Gray, 19, has been sent to a young offenders' institution of nine months after admitting charges of actual bodily harm and possessing a firearm with the threat to cause violence and criminal damage. He had recently required an **airgun** in exchange for an ornamental samurai sword and shot it several times whilst showing it to another teenager in **Colchester**, Essex. He then shot at his companion's moped and then at a group of his friends. One boy was shot in the shoulder as he was riding past on his moped.

**The Star**, 11 June 2009

Steven Summerfield from **Littledale**, Sheffield, threatened to kill a female friend's black boyfriend and sent her abusive texts. He then shot at her upstairs window whilst "somewhat the worse for drink" but aware that she and her partner were in at the time. After the incident he was seen "walking away laughing, carrying a gun in his right hand". It happened while the Summerfield was on bail following the discovery of **air rifles** in his car which were more powerful than the legal limit and which he claimed he had bought at a car boot sale. The weapon he used to shoot at the victim's house has not been recovered. He pleaded guilty to racially aggravated harassment and offences under the Firearms Act and was jailed for three years and eight months.

**BBC**, 8 June 2009

A man whose **air rifle** was used to shoot his toddler son dead when it was left unattended in his garden in **Washwood Heath**, Birmingham, in August 2008 (see [Incidents](#)) has been given a conditional discharge after he pleaded guilty to causing the death of his son. Bakht Zaman had been firing the gun at empty cans but when he went to answer a telephone call the weapon, which had been left with its safety catch off, was fired by another child.

**Stourbridge News**, 5 June 2009

Dean Raybould was caught wearing camouflage clothing and crouched down in a firing position while pointing an unloaded **air rifle** at a pub in **Merry Hill**, Wolverhampton. He admitted affray and was given a six month jail term suspended for 18 months. He had been drinking heavily at the time of the incident but was apparently intending to go rabbit hunting. He claimed "We were only having a laugh".

**Swindon Advertiser**, 4 June 2009

Thomas Cowley from **Wootton Bassett**, Wiltshire, has been remanded in custody after a community order became unworkable. He had been put on a community order with a mental health requirement in September 2008 after he admitted four counts of making an explosive substance and one of possession. He said he started making explosives to give his **airgun** more thrust.

**News & Crier**, 4 June 2009

Stephen Peacock threatened a teenage brother and sister with a loaded **air pistol** after they "did his head in". The incident took place at the bus station in **Huntingdon**, Cambridgeshire, in September 2008. Police found the .177 pistol under a vehicle in a pub car park. Peacock admitted possessing an imitation firearm with intent to endanger life. He was given an Asbo and a 28 week custodial sentence, suspended for 18 months and was put under supervision for 18 months.

**Chad (Mansfield)**, 2 June 2009

Stephen Marriot from **Sutton**, Nottinghamshire, has pleaded guilty to having an **air rifle** with intent to cause a man to believe violence would be used against another man at his workplace. The incident, which involved his sister's ex-boyfriend, took place in March 2009. He was given a 45 week jail term, suspended for 18 months and 160 hours unpaid community work (*Chad (Mansfield)*, 29 June 2009).

**BBC**, 31 May 2009

A woman fled a flat in **Weymouth**, Dorset, with her baby after claiming her husband had a gun. Armed officers and negotiators arrived at the home and persuaded the man to give himself up after about three hours. An **air rifle** and **shotgun** were seized. A man was arrested on suspicion of making threats to kill. Martyn Hannaford has been ordered to keep the peace and to pay £500 for breaching a previous order to keep the peace. He had returned home drunk and his wife overheard him say he had an air rifle and was going to shoot the baby then her (*Dorset Echo*, 2 June 2009).

**The Sentinel**, 29 May 2009 \*

A man has been accused of possession of an **air rifle** while being sentenced to three years' detention in a young offenders' institute and with a similar offence involving possession of ammunition for a firearm. The offences were carried out in January 2009 in **Chesterton**, Staffordshire. The case was adjourned until June.

**Louth Leader**, 29 May 2009 \*

A 16-year-old armed with a **gas powered air pistol** pointed the replica Colt 45 pistol at a taxi driver in **Mablethorpe**, Lincolnshire, in December 2008. The youth was accompanied by Ryan Harrop, 18, who was brandishing a samurai sword. The younger man admitted robbery and possessing a firearm, and Harrop pleaded guilty to robbery and possessing a bladed article. Both were sentenced to four years youth detention. A fellow taxi driver who raced to the scene and apprehended the gunman was awarded £250 by the judge.

**Derby Evening Telegraph**, 23 May 2009 \*

In September 2008 Ashley Peters stopped his car in the middle of a road in **Draycott**, Derby, and walked to the vehicle behind, gesturing to the driver to get out and have a fight. He went back to his vehicle, picked up an **air rifle** with a telescopic sight and aimed it at the car. Peters was jailed for two years and five months after he admitted possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He said there was no ammunition in the rifle. When he was arrested he claimed to have been holding a broom. Peters already had a conviction for assault and criminal damage.

**Mirror**, 19 May 2009 \*

A group of youths, some as young as 10 and led by a woman, threw eggs and fired an **airgun** at an Asian neighbour in **Gravesend**, Kent. The victim had previously lodged a complaint to police about a racially-aggravated assault. Matthew Beck, 17, who fired the gun was given community service and supervision. The court found that the youths had been encouraged by Helen Forster who was given a 10 months suspended sentence and was also given community service and supervision.

**Gazette**, 18 May 2009 \*

Cameron Howe, 18, fired an **air rifle** at a van which was parked outside the owner's house in **Earls Colne**, Essex. He admitted he had behaved recklessly but said the incident was an accident. He had acquired the gun that day, swapping it for a car amplifier. He had only ever used an air rifle once before. He was ordered to pay £100 in compensation and £60 in court costs.

***This is Derbyshire***, 16 May 2009

Ian Gibson and Tracey Wood burst into a shop in **Allenton**, Derby, in February 2009, armed with an **airgun** which was pointed at a shop worker. The shop owner wrestled with Gibson, sustaining serious facial injuries, until police arrived and arrested him. Wood returned to throw a brick through the window, was chased by police and was seen to drop the gun behind a fence. Both men have pleaded guilty to attempted robbery and possession of an imitation firearm and asked for a total of 23 other offences to be taken into consideration. Both were jailed for seven years for attempted robbery and three years concurrently for possession of the imitation gun. The recorder ordered the destruction of the gun.

***Winsford Guardian***, 12 May 2009

Craig Batin has been jailed for 12 months after pleading guilty to possession of **air rifles**, racially aggravated harassment, possession of a **stun gun** and possession of amphetamines. He had been banned from possessing firearms for life after a previous conviction. The weapons were found during two raids on his former home in **Winsford**, Cheshire, in September and November 2008.

***Norwich Evening News***, 9 May 2009 \*

A 16-year-old boy has been given a 10 month sentence and will serve a minimum of five months in a young offenders' institution after pleading guilty to causing actual bodily harm and possessing a firearm. He shot a woman in the face with an **air rifle** as she was paying a visit to a friend's house in **Norwich** in November 2008. She sustained horrible bruises and had to spend two days in hospital. The youth aimed the gun at her from the back bedroom window of a house.

***Lowestoft Journal***, 7 May 2009

Matthew Sleightholme was arrested after firing a pellet from an **air rifle** in a car park in **Halesworth**, Suffolk. He bought the weapon on an internet auction site before shooting it at a tree in a park as children played nearby in April 2009. He was fined £100 and ordered to pay costs, and magistrates ordered the destruction of the gun.

***Wigan Today***, 22 April 2009 \*

Nicholas Sealey, 18, shot his friend in the arm with an **air rifle** when his friend smoked cannabis at **Shevington Nook**, Lancashire, in September 2008. Sealey regretted what he had done and took the victim to hospital. He has pleaded guilty to wounding and was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment suspended for 18 months. He was also ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work.

***Scarborough Evening News***, 20 April 2009

David Harrison has been given a 21 month prison sentence for carrying a hammer and an airgun in public. He pleaded guilty to charges of using threatening abusive behaviour and having an offensive weapon in his possession. In the first of two incidents he was in a shop in **Scarborough** with his girlfriend who was found carrying a case containing an **air rifle** along with its ammunition while he was purchasing alcohol. He identified to police officers that the gun belonged to him. He was banned from possessing firearms as a result of many previous convictions. The forfeiture of his weapons was ordered.

**Coventry Telegraph**, 6 April 2009

Paul Turner has pleaded guilty to possessing a weapon while prohibited. Police found an **air pistol** with ammunition, gas cartridges and a holster whilst searching his apartment in **Rugby**, Warwickshire. He claimed that he bought the gun for target practice in his garden, but he was banned from possessing any type of firearm as a result of previous criminal convictions. He has been jailed for ten months.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 4 April 2009

A man has been cleared of keeping a **.22 air rifle** without the required firearms certificate. He told the jury that he had previously been cautioned for possessing it but that police officers had handed it back to him, without checking to see if a certificate was required. He assumed none was necessary, but a firearms specialist concluded that it was classed as "specially dangerous". The rifle was used to shoot a passer-by in the thigh in **Long Buckby**, Northamptonshire, in July 2007.

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 1 April 2009

An alcoholic who was found collapsed in the car park of a supermarket in **Aspley**, West Yorkshire, had an **air pistol** in a bag. He said he had bought the gun in a pub that day. He admitted being drunk and disorderly but was found not guilty of carrying an air weapon in public without reasonable excuse.

**The Gazette (Blackpool)**, 19 March 2009

A man who threatened another man with a **.22 air pistol** during a domestic dispute in **Staining**, Lancashire, in August 2008 has been jailed for 21 months. Brian Hindle had been drinking when he decided to visit his former partner's children who were staying at a neighbour's house. After having the door slammed in his face he returned with the gun and pointed it at the homeowner. He gave himself up after armed police surrounded his house. The judge said that "Only a custodial sentence can be justified. It was a real weapon - a .22 air pistol - capable of being lethal".

**Grimsby Telegraph**, 16 March 2009

After being hit by an egg thrown from a passing car in August 2008, Frederick Bowyer went into his home in **Grimsby** and collected an **air rifle**. He believed the egg had been thrown by a group of youths who were standing close to his house and deliberately pointed the rifle at people in the vicinity. He admitted possessing a firearm to cause fear of unlawful violence and was given a 12-month community order and must complete 80 hours of unpaid work.

**Telegraph**, 10 March 2009

In August 2008 David Constantine admitted putting his neighbours, a man and his wife, in fear of violence. He had subjected them to a catalogue of violence including threats to kill and firing an **airgun** while they were having a barbecue in their garden in **Lanchester**, County Durham. A judge gave him six months to sell his house or face prison. A ban on his visiting the property has now been lifted as he has been unable to sell the house. He has been given a six month suspended jail sentence with the provision that he does not cause nuisance to his neighbours or communicate with them.

**Coventry Telegraph**, 27 February 2009 \*

Three teenagers, Drew Goldstein, Nathan Crick and Reece Jones, have been given custodial sentences of six, seven and seven years respectively after they pleaded guilty to robbery and aggravated vehicle-taking. In January 2009 they robbed staff at a betting shop in **Bedworth**, Warwickshire, at gunpoint before speeding away in a stolen car. The small grey and black handgun they used was an **airgun**.

**Grimsby Telegraph**, 25 February 2009

A man described as a gun enthusiast has been jailed for three years after he admitted conspiring with another man to import a Ruger .22 pistol and other offences including possessing a **sawn-off shotgun**, a **semi-automatic shotgun**, and an **air weapon** (capable of firing pellets at more than the legal limit) and possessing part of a pistol. Desmond Merrion from **Ulceby**, Lincolnshire, held a firearm certificate but not a shotgun certificate. Parts of the pistol were posted to him from America but a parcel containing them was intercepted. The butt of the gun was hidden in a hairdryer and the barrel was wrapped in a bundle of clothes.

**Stourbridge News**, 24 February 2009

Stuart Edmunds had been drinking heavily when he fired a **gas powered air pistol** at friends working in a barbers shop in **Wall Heath**, West Midlands. After he left the shop he fired the gun across the street before police arrived to move two toddlers and their parents out of the way. He claimed the gun had been bought for target practice in his garden. Edmunds admitted possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and has been jailed for four years.

**Bexhill-on-Sea Observer**, 24 February 2009

Shooting enthusiast Daniel Johnson was caught storing an **air rifle** without a proper certificate. Police with a drugs search warrant found the gun at his home in **Farley Bank**, Hastings. He pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm without a certificate and was fined £65.

**This is Croydon Today**, 20 February 2009

Eric Whitmarsh from **Purley**, Surrey, has pleaded guilty to threatening his neighbour with a fake gun. A long-lasting dispute between the pair came to a head in November 2008 when Whitmarsh flew into a rage after a light was shone through his front window and he fetched the weapon, an **air rifle**, and pointed it in the direction of his neighbours. He pleaded guilty to possession of an imitation firearm and threatening behaviour. He was warned by the judge that "this is likely to result in a custodial sentence".

**North West Evening Mail**, 20 February 2009

Russell Treeby has been jailed for 12 months after police searched his home in **Ambleside**, Cumbria, and found a dismantled .22 **air rifle**. He had been banned from being in possession of the rifle because of previous offences. He pleaded guilty to possession of an air weapon and ammunition when prohibited and without a certificate.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo**, 18 February 2009

Drug dealer Stephen Perrett was jailed for thirteen-and-a-half years after being caught with thousands of pounds and an **airgun** at his properties in **Northampton**. One of his convictions was for having a firearm. He has since had his sentence reduced to 11 years on appeal.

**Northern Echo**, 17 February 2009 \*

Lee Greaves, 16, was given an **air rifle** by his mother on his birthday threatened people in **Darlington** with the weapon. He has been given a two-year anti-social behaviour order. He was behind more than 60 public order incidents since 2006. His mother, Michelle Greaves, was given a six month parenting order.

**Warrington Guardian**, 16 February 2009 \*

Dale Roberts, 19, stole knives and an **air rifle** from a flat in **Birchwood**, Cheshire. A computer and two mobile phones were also taken. He targeted the home with friends in September 2008. The following day police arrested a 16-year-old who was shooting an air rifle (he was later prosecuted over using the gun) and admitted keeping watch whilst two accomplices gained access to the property. Roberts was arrested and admitted the burglary charge. He has been jailed for eight months.

**Bognor Regis Observer**, 12 February 2009

Steven Russell has pleaded guilty to threatening armed police with an **air rifle** and a samurai sword at his home in **Bognor Regis**, Sussex, in November 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He was warned he would face a jail term.

**Norwich Evening News**, 3 February 2009 \*

A 17-year-old youth has admitted being in possession of a machete and a loaded **air rifle** in a public place. He had met up with two adult friends on a riverbank in **Norwich** and they were taking it in turns to shoot at the bridge and some tins with the rifle. A passing police officer spotted the youth picking up a machete. The youth was given a six-month referral order.

**Hunts Post**, 3 February 2009

Graham Rivers, an ex-prisoner, has pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm and ammunition. A condition of his release from prison was that he could not possess a firearm for five years. Whilst staying at a woman's flat in **St Neots**, Cambridgeshire, he had pointed her **air rifle** out of a window when a group of youths tried to get into the flat in January 2009. Police found air rifle pellets in his pocket. In mitigation it was claimed he had been trying to scare off the youths. He was given an 18 month conditional discharged and ordered to pay costs.

**Get Reading**, 22 January 2009 \*

A 15-year-old boy from **Burghfield Common**, Reading, has been charged with possessing a firearm (a **BB air weapon**), beating up five people and intimidating witnesses. The beating and firearm possession charges date from August 2008. He has denied all the charges and the case has been adjourned.

**Barking & Dagenham Recorder**, 22 January 2009

Dennis Ellis brandished an **airgun** at a female paramedic before stealing and crashing an ambulance following a suicide bid at his home in **Dagenham**, east London, in September 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). A second airgun was discovered at his home. Ellis admitted possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear or violence and aggravated vehicle taking. He was jailed for three years and the judge ordered the destruction of the two airguns.

**St Albans & Harpenden Review**, 21 January 2009

A woman accused of inciting a mass brawl outside a flat in **Hatfield**, Hertfordshire, in November 2007, in which two people were stabbed, claims it happened after an **air rifle** was held to her four-year-old daughter's head by a man who lived at the flat. The man, Reuben Ngharo, has already pleaded guilty to two counts of wounding with intent. He had attempted to ward off a group including the woman by threatening with an air rifle and had also produced two kitchen knives. The trial continues.

***This is Gloucestershire***, 17 January 2009

Peter Marden sparked a four-hour siege when he threatened to blow up his home in **Tredworth**, Gloucester, in October 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). He pointed an **air rifle** at his own son during the incident. He has been jailed for eight months after he admitted having an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

***News & Star***, 17 January 2009

Steven Hodgson roamed the streets of **Cleator Moor**, Cumbria, armed with an **air pistol** and stun gun. He had been banned from ever owning guns after serving eight years in prison for robbery with a sawn-off shotgun nearly twenty years ago, but he kept a collection of air weapons at his home. He was arrested after pointing the unloaded air pistol and pretending to fire it at a man who was walking home from the pub. Hodgson pleaded guilty to possessing the air pistol with intent to cause fear of violence, possessing the illegal stun gun and possessing the air rifles when banned from doing so because of his previous conviction. He has been sent to prison for three-and-a-half years.

***Middleton Guardian***, 15 January 2009

Police recovered a powerful Colt AR15 semi-automatic **air rifle** and a Brocock 'target trophy' **air revolver**, both of which are prohibited weapons, at the home of Man San Chan in **Alkrington**, Greater Manchester. Police were first alerted to Chan after he was stopped in his car and they found an **imitation Walther P99 handgun** in the glove compartment which sparked a search of his home. A further three handguns were found. Chan was given a five year sentence after pleading guilty to possessing two unlicensed illegal firearms and a further 12 month sentence to run concurrently for having an imitation firearm with him in a public place. He had purchased the weapons between five and seven years ago after developing an interest in weaponry.

***The Argus***, 14 January 2009

A traffic warden has had to quit his job after a driver brandished a gun during a dispute over an out-of-date permit in **Hove**, Sussex. According to the prosecution Gary Hunnisett, a pest controller, threatened to gun down the warden if he didn't move away from his work van. Police found the van with a guncase containing a **.22 air rifle** and a second air rifle in the back. Hunnisett later refused to accept a police caution over the incident. He denied possessing a firearm with intent to cause the warden to believe unlawful violence would be used against him and threatening unlawful violence but pleaded guilty to an alternative charge of affray. He was fined £200 and ordered to pay £300 compensation and prosecution costs.

***Oswestry and Border Counties Advertiser***, 13 January 2009

A Police Community Support Officer, Steven Mellor, has been commended for disarming a man who threatened him at gunpoint during an incident in **Weston Rhyn**, Shropshire, in July 2007. A neighbour, who had made a nuisance of himself, pointed a rifle in his face but after a struggle he was able to overpower the gunman and restrain him until police arrived. The gun was found to be an unloaded **air rifle** with a telescopic sight. The gunman was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and was later given a nine month prison sentence, suspended for two years.

***Telegraph & Argus***, 8 January 2009

A man from **Bradford** who pointed an **air rifle** at his teenage daughter as she sat in a car with her sister and mother has pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. The man, who was described by the judge as a "sick, drunken cowardly father", had taken the weapon from a shed. He was given a 12-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, coupled with a two-year supervision order.

**Burton Mail**, 6 January 2009

Steven Fisher who bought a lethal, high-powered **air rifle** "to shoot rats" has been jailed for nine months after admitting possessing an illegal firearm. The gun was seized during the execution of a warrant at his home in **Tamworth**, Staffordshire, in connection with a domestic incident. The gun had been purchased from the **Donington Market** where it had been sold with a telescopic sight and silencer. The recorder told him "The sort of weapon you purchased is one that can cause lethal harm to humans, that's why there is a law that absolutely prohibits possession of such a weapon without authorisation".

## SCOTLAND

**BBC**, 23 December 2009

Anthony Moran has admitted being involved in a £24,000 robbery on security guards at a petrol station in **Newmains**, Lanarkshire, in July 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). He was arrested after trying to use some of the stolen cash covered with security dye. Two other men, who were armed with a handgun were involved in the robbery and Moran drove the getaway car. The weapon was later found to be an **airgun**. Moran will be sentenced later.

**Evening News**, 18 December 2009

Artis Skangalis has pleaded guilty to committing a breach of the peace by discharging an imitation firearm causing fear and alarm. In an incident which took place on a public footpath in **Edinburgh** in September 2006 when he fired an **air pistol**. A couple walking along the footpath heard a "popping sound" and sensed something flying past their heads. Skangalis told police he had been firing at a bus stop. He has been sentenced to 200 hours community service.

**Evening Express**, 7 December 2009 \*

Stuart Roger, 17, recklessly fired shots from an **air rifle** in **Inverurie**, Aberdeenshire, in April 2009. It was claimed he put people in danger as a result and he was charged with culpably and recklessly discharging the airgun. He had been carrying out target practice in his garden when the shot "deflected". He admitted the charge and will be sentenced later.

**Evening Telegraph & Post**, 2 December 2009 \*

Stewart Blackburn, 18, who was found guilty of murdering his girlfriend by pouring petrol over her and setting fire to her at their flat in **Arbroath** in April 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) was also found guilty of pointing an **air rifle** at two men repeatedly pulling the trigger and placing them in a state of fear and alarm. He has been given a life sentence and must serve at least 21 years (*Evening Telegraph & Post*, 5 January 2010).

**Evening News**, 18 November 2009

Jeffrey Baumgardner tried to take a **gas-propelled air pistol** and a flick knife onto a plane from **Edinburgh** to the USA. Police were alerted when his suitcase was X-rayed. He has been fined £1,000.

**Barrhead News**, 9 September 2009

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

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

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

**Greenock Telegraph**, 3 September 2009

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

**Hawick News**, 31 August 2009

Jason Hook from **Hawick** has been admonished for having an **air pistol** on him without reasonable excuse in December 2008 (see [Incidents](#)). The weapon has been confiscated.

**BBC**, 27 August 2009 \*

A couple from **Kilmarnock**, Ayrshire, have admitted using **air weapons** to confront revellers during a neighbour's Hogmanay party after guests let off fireworks. They armed themselves after they had complained to police but the police said they would not be attending because it was Hogmanay. Armed officers later called to the scene found an air rifle and a number of air pistols. James Howat-Hurst admitted committing a breach of the peace by attending a party in possession of a firearm and a bottle of methylated spirits, threatening people, assault by striking a man on the neck with the butt of a gun and having a firearm with intent to commit an offence. Sandra Howat-Hurst pleaded guilty to having a firearm with intent to cause people to believe that unlawful violence would be used against them. She was given 250 hours community service whilst her husband was sent to jail for two years (*stv*, 7 October 2009).

**Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser**, 5 August 2009

An air rifle was found in the parked car of Kevin Rafferty when police investigated his erratic behaviour in **Caldercruix**, North Lanarkshire, in May 2009. He was three times the legal limit for driving. He admitted possessing the **air rifle** in a public place "without lawful authority or reasonable excuse" and was admonished on condition that he signed a disclaimer agreeing for the weapon to be passed to safety at the Procurator Fiscal's office. He was also disqualified from driving for two years.

**Irvine Times**, 15 July 2009

Christopher O'Neill is awaiting jail after threatening his teenage sister with an **air pistol** at the family home in **Irvine**, Ayrshire. He held the weapon 12 feet away from her and her friend after she refused to give him £50 whilst he was drunk.

**BBC**, 1 July 2009

A man who shot a 12-year-old boy in the stomach with an **air weapon** in **Stanley**, Perthshire, in January 2009 has been jailed for nine months. Steven Urquhart, who admitted shooting and injuring the child, was high on valium when he confronted the boy about the noise of his mini-motorbike. He claimed he used the gun for shooting rabbits.

**Stirling Observer**, 5 June 2009

Armed police were called after a man from **Raploch**, Stirling, barricaded himself inside his former home during "difficult" divorce proceedings. His wife informed police that there was an **air rifle** and pellets in the house though she thought he wouldn't use it. As a result of the incident in May 2009 Ian Philip admitted a breach of the peace and was sentenced to 200 hours community service.

**BBC**, 27 May 2009

Russell Steele armed himself with an **air rifle** and ordered a neighbour in **Perth** to stop his DIY. He had asked the man to stop working but when he refused Steele picked up the unloaded gun. He admitted possessing a firearm with intent to make his neighbour believe unlawful violence would be used against him in August 2008. He was ordered to carry out 300 hours of community service.

**Evening Express**, 21 May 2009

Aaron Mackie has admitted behaving in a culpable and reckless manner and endangering a teenager. He fired an **airgun** at a 14-year-old girl in **Aberdeen** in March 2008, leaving her injured. Pellets hit the girl on her head and body. Mackie is due back in court next month.

**Stirling Observer**, 3 April 2009

Martin Campbell fired an **air rifle** at a house name sign in **Callander**, Perthshire, in June 2008. The sheriff deferred sentence and said that the Crown's request for the weapon to be forfeited would be dealt with at the time of sentencing.

**Daily Record**, 2 April 2009

Ex-soldier Anthony Connelly fired an **air rifle** at a neighbour in **Castlehill**, Dumbarton, and then shot at police during a four-hour siege. He had been drinking a day after leaving the army. He admitted recklessly discharging an air weapon and was given a 40 months prison sentence.

**Perthshire Advertiser**, 31 March 2009

A man from **Stanley**, Perthshire, has appeared in court has denied having a firearm in his possession with intent to cause another man to believe that unlawful violence would be used against him. A second charge alleges that he stole a **gat gun** from a farm in Stanley on the same day.

**BBC**, 31 March 2009

Allan Dickson repeatedly fired an **air pistol** to "frighten" a group of men who attacked him as he was walking home in **Edinburgh** in July 2008. He went into his home and was seen later standing in his garden firing the gas-powered gun. He handed the gun to a friend and it was recovered from her home. He has pleaded guilty to a breach of the peace and possessing a firearm in a public place. He has been fined £1000 (*Evening News* (Edinburgh), 12 May 2009).

**Sunday Mail**, 22 March 2009

Patrick Trueman terrified three boys in **Ardrossan**, Ayrshire, by following them with an **air rifle**. He has been fined £600.

**Ayrshire Post**, 5 March 2009

A man who walked through an industrial estate in **Ayr** with an **air rifle** visible in August 2008 has been told by a sheriff that he could have caused chaos. Mark Rogerson realised the seriousness of breaching the regulation that required the weapon to be covered up. His sentence was deferred for six months.

**Hawick News**, 2 March 2009

Jason Hook has admitted having an unloaded **air pistol** without reasonable excuse in **Hawick** in December 2008. He tried to put the gun through a letterbox but it was pushed back to him. He has had sentence deferred for six months.

**Ayr Advertiser**, 13 January 2009

Brian Strathearn, a serving soldier, caused a major armed police and helicopter operation when he opened fire with an **air rifle** across the **River Ayr** in the vicinity of a park where families were enjoying an afternoon out in May 2008. He admitted committing a breach of the peace and putting members of the public in a state of fear and alarm.

## WALES

**South Wales Argus**, 29 October 2009

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

**South Wales Evening Post**, 7 October 2009

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

**Daily Post**, 12 September 2009 \*

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

**Wales Online**, 18 June 2009 \*

Matthew Jones, 18, pointed an **air rifle** in the dark at an officer after the police had been called by neighbours in **Caerphilly** when they had seen him in the street repeatedly loading his .22 air weapon and firing towards their homes in February 2009. The WPC had to jump behind a car as he aimed the gun at her. Jones said he had drunk six or seven cans of lager before "shooting at targets at random". He pleaded guilty of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and was given an 18 months sentence in a young offenders' institution.

**Daily Post**, 29 May 2009

In March 2009 Daniel Skinner forced his way into a neighbour's home in **Flint** and pointed an **air rifle** at the face of a young woman. The gun did not have a butt but all the working parts were present. Skinner was demanding the whereabouts of a man whilst pointing the weapon directly at the victim's forehead. He admitted affray, assault, possessing a firearm and breaching his Asbo, as well as a set of similar charges in relation to an incident in which he was armed with a knife.

**BBC**, 7 May 2009

Ricky Connon from **Broughton**, Flintshire, has admitted possessing a firearm with intent to cause people to believe that unlawful violence would be used against them. He fired an **airgun** out of his window when children hurled missiles at his flat in March 2009. He was given a suspended 40 week jail sentence and made subject of a two year supervision order.

**Tivy-Side Advertiser**, 19 April 2009

Robert Lech was spotted by police in a car park in **Cardigan** with a loaded **.22 calibre air rifle** in his hands. He was accompanied by four youths and his three-year-old daughter. He told then he was shooting at a marker in the river. He had purchased the air rifle a few days previously and "nobody told him he couldn't use it in public". He pleaded guilty to a charge of possessing a loaded air weapon in a public place and was given a six months Community Order.

## INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

**Milton Keynes Citizen**, 31 December 2009

A heron who is well known in **Haversham**, Buckinghamshire, has been left paralysed in an **airgun** attack. Two pellets were lodged in his spine. He has been treated with painkillers, steroids and operated on to remove one of the pellets but the other one is dangerously close to the spine. Youths had been spotted firing an air rifle in the area where the heron lived.

**BBC**, 31 December 2009

Three men, two of them teenagers, have been arrested on suspicion of poaching after they were found driving in a van containing three dead deer in **Penkridge**, Staffordshire. The police found a modified **air rifle** with a gas cylinder and silencer and three hunting knives.

**Press Association**, 24 December 2009

Two young cats have been injured in an **airgun** attack in a residential street in **Kirkcaldy**, Fife. One lost an eye after being shot in the middle of the head and the other was shot in the shoulder.

**BBC**, 21 December 2009

A pet cat has been injured by an **air rifle** pellet in **Stockton Heath**, Warrington, Cheshire. He was hit in the back and the pellet lodged between his throat and spine. Surgery was needed to remove the pellet and he has been left with a limp.

**Tottenham, Wood Green & Edmonton Journal**, 17 December 2009

A pet cat was killed and another injured after being shot at with **airguns** in **South Tottenham**, north London.

**Newham Recorder**, 16 December 2009

The **East London** paper has reported that a cat believed to have been shot with an **air rifle** has had his leg broken in five places and suffered a broken hip. He may have to have his leg amputated.

**The Journal**, 28 November 2009

Two men who shot and killed nine kittiwakes by shooting them with an **air rifle** on a cliff face have both pleaded guilty to intentional killing of wild birds. Dane Ord and Paul Reed could be facing a jail sentence. A third man is not facing charges. The attack took place at **Marsden**, Tyne & Wear (*Sunderland Echo*, 28 November 2009).

**The Star**, 26 November 2009

A swan was found shot dead at a nature reserve at **Beighton Marsh**, Sheffield. It was hit by three **airgun** pellets.

**Dorset Echo**, 21 November 2009

A kitten has been shot with an **air rifle** on the first day she was let out of the house in **Portland**, Dorset. She had to undergo emergency surgery after being hit by a pellet which just missed her spine.

## Incidents involving Animals

### **Hereford Times**, 20 November 2009

A cat looks set to lose her leg after being shot during a suspected **airgun** attack in **Ledbury**, Herefordshire. Bones in her front right leg have been shattered by a pellet.

### **Fakenham & Wells Times**, 20 November 2009

A cat found beside a road near RAF **Marham**, Norfolk, had been shot four times, it is thought with an **air rifle**. It may need to have its eye removed and leg amputated.

### **Sunderland Echo**, 16 November 2009

A cat is fighting for her life after being shot in the head with an **air rifle** in **Houghton**, County Durham. A pellet has lodged in her throat and cannot be removed.

### **Scunthorpe Telegraph**, 16 November 2009

A cat was left needing emergency surgery after being shot with an **airgun** pellet which tore through his stomach and bladder. The attack took place in **Riddings**, North Lincolnshire, and follows two shootings at the owner's previous property in **Ashby**.

### **The Sentinel**, 14 November 2009

A cat is lucky to be alive after an **airgun** pellet was left lodged in his head following an airgun attack in **Longton**, Cheshire. His eye had to be stitched closed to prevent further damage.

### **Bristol Evening Post**, 13 November 2009

Two cats owned by the same man in **Easton**, Bristol, have been the victims of **air rifle** attacks within the space of a few days. One cat returned home with a large puncture wound to one of his back legs. The second cat is lucky to be alive after she was shot in the eye. Both cats are now recovering well.

### **This is Plymouth**, 12 November 2009

A kitten has died after being shot in **Plymouth**. The pet was shot three times with an **airgun**. A neighbour found him injured near his home but he died whilst being given emergency treatment.

### **Guardian (Epping Forest, Waltham Forest, Wanstead & Woodford)**, 11 November 2009

A cat has been left paralysed after being shot in the spine with an **air rifle** in **North Weald**, Essex. He was probably shot from fairly close range as the pellet was quite deep inside.

### **Get Surrey**, 11 November 2009

A cat has been shot at close range with an **airgun** in **Guildford**, Surrey. She underwent a four hour emergency operation. A pellet had pierced seven loops of her intestines as well as going through the abdomen and a kidney before becoming lodged in her rib cage.

### **Dumfries & Galloway Standard**, 11 November 2009

A cat from **Eaglesfield**, Dumfriesshire, has been shot with an **airgun** for the second time in two months. Vets have had to remove pellets from its body on both occasions.

## Incidents involving Animals

***This is Nottingham***, 10 November 2009

A cat has had to have a leg amputated after he was shot with an **air rifle** in **Carlton**, Nottingham. A pellet became embedded in a bone.

***Sunderland Echo***, 3 November 2009

Two swans have died after being shot with **airgun** pellets at Herrington Country Park in **Sunderland**. The female, who was shot through the neck, had to be put to sleep straight away and the male, who had injuries to his beak and wing, a day after being found.

***Arbroath Herald***, 30 October 2009

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

***Midhurst and Petworth Observer***, 29 October 2009

A cat has had to have a leg amputated after being shot with an **air rifle** near his home in **Southwick**, East Sussex. His back leg was shattered by the shot.

***Northampton Chronicle & Echo***, 27 October 2009

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

***Oxford Mail***, 22 October 2009

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

***Telegraph & Argus***, 19 October 2009

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

***This is Leicestershire***, 13 October 2009

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

***Eastern Daily Press***, 13 October 2009

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

***Cambs Times***, 13 October 2009

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

## Incidents involving Animals

**RSPCA**, 12 October 2009

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

**Evesham Journal**, 12 October 2009

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

**Romford Recorder**, 9 October 2009

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

**Northern Scot**, 9 October 2009

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

**Evening Telegraph (Northants)**, 9 October 2009

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

**Wigan Today**, 1 October 2009

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

**Get Bracknell**, 1 October 2009

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

**Evesham Journal**, 1 October 2009

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

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

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

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

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

## Incidents involving Animals

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

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

***Express & Star***, 23 September 2009

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

***Evening Star***, 23 September 2009

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

***Daily Gazette***, 16 September 2009

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

***Lincolnshire Echo***, 14 September 2009

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

***Skegness Standard***, 9 September 2009

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

***Matlock Mercury***, 4 September 2009

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

***This is Crawley***, 28 August 2009

A cat was shot in an **air rifle** attack in **Crawley**, Sussex. Vets removed a pellet but were left with no choice but to amputate his leg. They believe he must have been shot from very close range to cause such damage to his leg.

***Daily Post***, 28 August 2009

Three kittens have been shot with an **airgun** and left for dead in an attack in **Llanfigael**, Anglesey. One of them survived despite being shot in the neck and sustaining a broken leg, but another was already dead when they were discovered and a second who was seriously wounded is believed to have crawled away to die.

## Incidents involving Animals

### **Berwickshire News**, 26 August 2009

A cat has been shot in **Eyemouth**, Berwickshire. She arrived home limping and in pain and has had to undergo extensive reconstructive surgery to her right leg as her femur was completely smashed by the **airgun** pellet.

### **Skegness Standard**, 25 August 2009

A cat has had to be put to sleep after being shot with an **air weapon** in **Alford**, Lincolnshire. Several pellets were found in his body, including one which had penetrated his head.

### **News Shopper**, 24 August 2009

A cat had to undergo an emergency operation after she was shot in the right shoulder by an **airgun** in **Orpington**, south east London. The vet who treated her said she was the fourth cat he knew of which had been shot by an airgun recently.

### **Wortley Today**, 18 August 2009

A family's dog found cowering in pain and covered in blood in their garden in **Bramley**, West Yorkshire, has had to be put down. The dog had been shot with an **air rifle**, and although a pellet was removed he could not be saved.

### **BBC**, 17 August 2009

A cat has had her eyesight saved after being shot with an **airgun** in **St Cyrus**, Angus. A pellet was removed from behind her eye and she is said to be making a good recovery.

### **Echo**, 13 August 2009

A cat was almost blinded when it was shot in the face with an **air pistol** in **Canvey**, Essex. The cat had been on the front porch of his home. Vets managed to find the pellet and remove it from his eye.

### **Sun**, 13 August 2009

A cat was recovering after being found injured in **Alloa**, Clackmannanshire. She had suffered a badly broken leg after an **airgun** attack and a pellet was lodged in her back leg.

### **Cambridge News**, 8 August 2009

A pensioner has been left devastated after his cat was shot dead with an **airgun** in **Shepreth**, Cambridgeshire. He believes his pet may have been the victim of a "drive-by" attack which left his paralysed after a pellet went through his spine.

### **Milton Keynes Citizen**, 7 August 2009

A heavily pregnant cat thought to have been involved in a road traffic accident was found to have been shot with an **airgun** pellet lodged in her spine. She was found paralysed and traumatised in **Milton Keynes**. She is now receiving specialist surgery.

### **BBC**, 7 August 2009

Four youths have been arrested after cats were shot with **air rifles** in **Milford Haven**, Pembrokeshire. Two owners had reported incidents. Other cat owners are being urged to check their pets for any unexplained injuries. Four male youths have now been charged with firearm offences (*Milford & West Wales Mercury*, 8 October 2009).

## Incidents involving Animals

**News & Star**, 6 August 2009

A cat is recovering after being shot in the face with an **airgun** in **Houghton**, Cumbria. Vets removed a pellet from his jaw.

**This is Lancashire**, 5 August 2009

A cat was discovered dead alongside a footpath in **Blackmoor**, Lancashire, the latest victim of an **airgun** shooting. His owner had heard a couple of air rifle shots and found his pet after being tipped off by a dog walker.

**Lincolnshire Echo**, 3 August 2009

A cat which had been missing for nearly two weeks from his home in **Waddington**, Lincolnshire, returned with a serious leg injury. An X-ray showed he had been shot and that an **air rifle** pellet had shattered his front left leg.

**Oxford Mail**, 23 July 2009

A cat needed major surgery after it was shot with an **airgun**. He was discovered by his owner in his garden in **Burford**, Oxfordshire. A pellet had broken his leg in two places, shattering the bone.

**Express & Star**, 23 July 2009

A young swan has been shot through the head with an **air rifle** on a canal in **Dudley**, West Midlands. A pellet was lodged in its skull. It was taken to a sanctuary for emergency treatment.

**Teletext**, 22 July 2009

A cat has been shot in the stomach in an **airgun** attack in **Cwmbran**. It follows similar incidents in **Swansea**, **Maesteg** and **Newport** in the last month according to the RSPCA.

**Kent News**, 21 July 2009

A cat was shot with an **air rifle** in **Orpington**, south London. A major operation was needed to remove a pellet from the body. The pellet had pierced the spleen and both kidneys.

**This is Lancashire**, 20 July 2009

A cat has survived after being shot with an **airgun** for the second time in two years. After the latest attack in **Astley Bridge**, Greater Manchester, an x-ray showed a pellet lodged in his skull at the back of his right eye. The pellet has had to be left in place.

**Reading Chronicle**, 15 July 2009

The owner of a dog found the pet lying in a puddle of blood in **Enborne**, Berkshire, after it had been shot with an **air rifle**. Vets tried to remove the pellet from its lungs but it died from its injuries.

**Coventry Telegraph**, 15 July 2009

Following warnings from the RSPCA about **airgun** attacks on animals the paper reported the death of a cat from **Coundon**, Coventry, who was shot through the chest in June 2009. In 2008 the RSPCA nationally dealt with 759 animals who had been affected by the improper use of airguns.

## Incidents involving Animals

**BBC**, 15 July 2009

A pet cat has died two days after being shot with an **airgun** in **Ashby**, Leicestershire.

**West Sussex Gazette**, 13 July 2009

A cat has had to have one of its eyes removed after being shot with an **airgun** in **Ashington**, Sussex. An eye specialist vet found a pellet behind the eye.

**Northwich Guardian**, 13 July 2009

Three cats belonging to a woman in **Rudheath**, Cheshire, have gone missing in the past six months. One of the missing cats was hit in the eye with an **airgun** pellet last month. Vets were unable to remove it as it became lodged into the cat's skull.

**This is Gloucestershire**, 10 July 2009

A pet cat has been seriously injured after being hit by an **airgun** pellet in **Cheltenham**, Gloucestershire. She was found by her owners after staggering through the cat flap. The pellet entered through the rear hind leg and travelled into the lower abdomen.

**Melton Times**, 9 July 2009

Three pigeons were found shot dead in the middle of a car park in **Melton Mowbray**, Leicestershire. The wounds on the backs of two of the birds may have been caused by **air weapons**, the RSPCA believes.

**Leigh Journal**, 8 July 2009

A pet cat has died after being shot with an **airgun** in **Leigh**, Lancashire. The shooting happened shortly after another cat was found dead at the side of the road. It had been shot through the eye.

**Western Telegraph**, 6 July 2009

A dog from **Milford Haven**, Pembrokeshire, has undergone treatment after being shot at least five times, possibly with an **air weapon**. It currently has one pellet lodged in its skull.

**Telegraph & Argus**, 2 July 2009

A cat has lost an eye after an **air rifle** pellet penetrated her eyeball. Her owner from **Low Moor**, Bradford, said that air rifles should, at the very least, be licensed if not banned". She had to spend almost £500 on treatment.

**Runcorn and Widnes Weekly News**, 2 July 2009

Two swans have been shot dead at Spike Island in **Widnes**, Cheshire. An RSPCA spokeswoman said that **airgun** attacks on animals were 'rife'. Rewards have been offered in a bid to catch those responsible.

**Oxford Times**, 2 July 2009

A cat which has been shot with an **airgun** twice in five of months is recovering after vets amputated his leg. In the first incident the cat, from **Littlemore**, Oxford, was shot in the face, in the latest incident he was shot in the foreleg.

## Incidents involving Animals

**Stourbridge News**, 1 July 2009

A cat is lucky to be alive after an **airgun** pellet lodged in his spine leaving him so badly wounded that PDSA vets had recommended he should be put to sleep. The cat was missing for three days before being found tangled in vines in a neighbour's garden in **Wollaston**, West Midlands.

**Herald**, 29 June 2009

The RSPCA have warned that it is likely that there will be hundreds of **airgun** attacks on animals this summer. It highlighted a number of recent incidents including those in which a cat was shot with an airgun as he lay on a window ledge outside his home in **Reading**, Berkshire, and another in which a cat had to have a leg amputated after he was shot in **Oakland**, Leicestershire.

**Teletext**, 27 June 2009

A cat lost an eye as a result of an **airgun** attack in **Yoxford**, Suffolk.

**ThameNews.Net**, 26 June 2009

A cat has been hit in the leg by **air rifle** pellets in **Chinnor**, Oxfordshire. The cat's sister had also been shot in the leg six months ago. Both cats had to be operated on.

**Inverness Courier**, 26 June 2009

There has been a spate of **airgun** attacks on gulls in a residential street in **Inverness**. Community leaders are now warning of the dangers of someone being injured. In the latest incidents a gull was found with fresh gunshot wounds which were so severe it later died.

**stv**, 23 June 2009

A cat that went missing from his home in **Gilmerton**, Edinburgh, was found 11 days later in agony after being shot 11 times at close range with an **airgun**. There were pellets lodged in his face, chest and legs. An operation was performed to save two of his legs, which were both badly broken in the attack. The cat was found on a road in **Howgate** and it is thought that he may have been taken to there by car. A reward has been offered in an effort to trace those responsible (*Advertiser*, 13 July 2009).

**BBC**, 23 June 2009

Three cats have been shot with an **air rifle** in the **Tremar Coombe** area of Liskeard in Cornwall. One of the cats was so badly injured it died after the shooting. In the most recent incident a cat was shot in the chest and the leg, shattering a bone.

**Express & Echo**, 18 June 2009

The RSPCA is appealing for information following a series of gull shootings in **Exmouth**, Devon. In the latest incident a man was seen getting out of his van, leaning over the bonnet and shooting at a gull with an **air rifle**. An injured bird had to be put to sleep because of the severity of its injuries.

**Coventry Telegraph**, 18 June 2009

## Incidents involving Animals

A swan with an **airgun** pellet in its neck was left to die on the Coventry Canal at **Sutton Stop**. The injured bird was rescued and following surgery has made a full recovery and is now back with his partner and cygnets.

**Metro**, 16 June 2009

A pet cat from **Guisborough**, Teesside, is recovering after being shot 50 times with an **air rifle**. She was covered in blood and her owner assumed her pet had been attacked by a dog. Twenty of the pellets have been removed during emergency surgery leaving 30 embedded in her body. In other reports the weapon used is said to have been a **shotgun** (*BBC*, 16 June 2009).

**This is Local London**, 12 June 2009

A fox has been put down after being shot with an **airgun** and left to die. The animal was discovered in a garden shed in **Croydon**, south London. It had been shot in the ribs and abdomen.

**Get Surrey**, 11 June 2009

A cat had to have a leg amputated after being shot with an **air rifle** near her home in **Chiddingfold**, Surrey. A pellet had been discovered lodged close to a joint in her leg. Amputation limited further suffering.

**Edinburgh Evening News**, 11 June 2009

A cat has been shot in the throat in an **airgun** attack in **South Queensferry**, West Lothian. He remains in intensive care after vets operated to remove a pellet dangerously lodged in his larynx. It is likely that he will never be able to miaow again.

**Telegraph & Argus**, 10 June 2009

A dog has been shot twice with an **air rifle** in **Horton Bank Top**, Bradford. A vet was able to remove one pellet during emergency surgery but had to leave the other inside the dog. Two shots were heard after the pet wandered off into a nearby garden.

**Northern Echo**, 10 June 2009

A cat was shot and killed with an **air rifle** in **Moorside**, County Durham. He ran into his owners' house bleeding heavily and died during an operation at the vets.

**Watford Observer**, 9 June 2009

A cat has been shot with an **air rifle** in **South Oxhey**, Hertfordshire. The injured cat hobbled to its home before collapsing. It had been shot in the left thigh.

**News & Star**, 9 June 2009

Two cats have been shot with **airguns** in **Carlisle**. One was shot in the leg at close range, shattering its bones, and he has had to have a leg amputated. The second cat was shot from further away in the neck near its face. It is not known whether the two shootings are linked.

**Evening Express**, 8 June 2009

A cat owner in **Kincorth**, Aberdeen, one of whose cats had already been targeted in an **airgun** shooting, has had her other cat shot three times. In the latest attack one of the pellets has become lodged behind the cat's heart.

## Incidents involving Animals

**Teletext**, 6 June 2009

A cat has had its leg amputated after it was shot with an **airgun** in **Cardigan**. It was the second airgun incident in the area within the last two weeks.

**This is Bath**, 4 June 2009

A cat is now recovering at a vets' surgery after it was shot at close range with an **airgun** in **Peasedown St John**, Somerset. Pellets were handed into the police after the incident at an open space.

**BBC**, 4 June 2009

A family of swans, an adult and four cygnets, has been found dead with on a pond in **Gateshead**, Tyneside. They had suffered wounds consistent with the use of an **airgun**. Two teenagers have been charged with killing a wild bird, possessing an air weapon in a public place and having ammunition for an air weapon in a public place (*The Journal*, 5 June 2009).

**Watford Observer**, 3 June 2009

A cat suffered a "great deal of pain and distress" when it was shot with an **air rifle** in **Watford**, Hertfordshire. A vet put him down to save further suffering after a pellet was found in his spine.

**Lincolnshire Echo**, 3 June 2009

A pregnant cat was shot in the hip with an **airgun** near her home in **Heighington**, Lincolnshire. The pellet cannot be removed as she cannot be put under anaesthetic because of the pregnancy and until the litter is weaned.

**Daily Echo**, 3 June 2009

A family whose cat was shot in the back with an **air rifle** in **Bournemouth**, Dorset, believe she may have been used for target practice after straying into a nearby garden. She needed an operation to have a pellet removed from her back.

**Comet**, 3 June 2009

A cat is recovering after he was shot with an **airgun** in **Stevenage**, Hertfordshire. He had to undergo surgery to have a leg saved after a pellet was found embedded in the top of his leg which had shattered the bone.

**Horncastle News**, 2 June 2009

A cat has had his leg amputated after being shot in the knee in a 'deliberate' attack with an **air rifle** in **Mareham le Fen**, Lincolnshire. His owners at first thought he had been hit by a car but a vet revealed the knee had been smashed with an air rifle pellet. The cat has been helped on the road to recovery with a gift from an anonymous well-wisher (*Boston Standard*, 22 July 2009).

**Advertiser**, 1 June 2009

## Incidents involving Animals

A kitten has been shot with an **airgun** for the second time in three months in **Brackley**, Northamptonshire. In the latest incident the kitten suffered serious injuries. The pellet was removed by surgery, but the family has been left with a bill for nearly £700. In February the kitten's leg was injured.

**Tewkesbury ADMAG**, 28 May 2009

A woman has been left distraught after her cat was shot with an **air rifle** in **Evesham**, Worcestershire. She found her cat with a massive lump on the side of his body and thought he had developed an aggressive form of cancer but an x-ray revealed an air rifle pellet embedded in his rib muscles. He was lucky that it did not go into his lungs.

**The Star**, 25 May 2009

A couple have been left devastated by the death of their pet cat after he was shot at with an **airgun** close to his home in **Cudworth**, South Yorkshire. A pellet tore through his side and into his stomach and he had to be put to sleep.

**The Star**, 21 May 2009

Two boys were arrested after residents in **Staincross**, South Yorkshire, told the police that birds had been shot in woods. A 16-year-old appeared in court charged with possessing a loaded **air weapon** in a public place. He received a 24-hour community payback order. The second boy, aged 15, received an official caution.

**Doncaster Free Press**, 21 May 2009

A 14-year-old boy was arrested in **Carcroft**, South Yorkshire, for shooting wild birds on a public footpath with an **air weapon**. He was given a final warning for firearms and wildlife offences.

**Stroud News & Journal**, 20 May 2009

A cat was left with an **air rifle** pellet lodged three inches deep in his leg after he was shot in **Rodborough**, Gloucestershire. His owner first thought he had been run over, but vets found the pellet.

**Forres Gazette**, 20 May 2009

A cat has had its leg amputated after it was shot with an **airgun** in **Findhorn**, Moray. The pellet shattered its right back leg.

**Southern Daily Echo**, 19 May 2009

A cat owner from **Park Gate**, Hampshire, is offering a reward to catch the person who left her pet fighting for his life after he was shot with an **air rifle**. The cat was found crying in pain with a gaping hole in his chest. Vets confirmed he had been shot by an airgun and amputated his front leg. Another cat has a broken leg after being shot in **Thornhill**, Southampton, a week earlier.

**Rutland Times**, 18 May 2009

A cat has been shot with an **air rifle** in **Oakham**, Rutland. His owner found him crying in pain and was horrified to see x-rays of a pellet lodged near his spine. The cat may never walk properly again, despite vet bills of more than £600. He is the second cat to suffer being shot in the area within the last six weeks. In the earlier incident a cat was shot in the leg.

***This is Hull & East Riding***, 15 May 2009

Two separate **airgun** shootings occurred in one day in **Hull**. A young cat was millimetres away from dying after a pellet went through its rib cage and liver before lodging in its stomach. The animal was found in west Hull. Another cat was shot in **Cottingham** and had been brought to the same vets by its owner after its shoulder bone had been shattered by an airgun pellet.

***This is Derbyshire***, 14 May 2009

A cat has been shot at close range with an **air rifle** in **Alvaston**, Derby. He was seen to be bleeding, and when his fur was pulled back a small metal pellet was found lodged in his shoulder. His owner believes he's had a lucky escape.

***Tavistock Times Gazette***, 14 May 2009

A cat was shot with an **air rifle** in **Tavistock**, Devon. The pellet burst through the animal's intestine and he is lucky to be alive. The full extent of the injuries and pellet were only discovered when the cat was taken to the vets.

***Wigan Observer***, 13 May 2009

Teenagers who have been drinking are terrorising bailiffs and firing **airgun** pellets at wildlife at fishing ponds in **Wigan**, Greater Manchester. One gander was shot with an air rifle recently.

***Evening Courier***, 13 May 2009

A dog let off its lead while it was being walked in **Grimsby**, Lincolnshire, was shot with an **airgun**. Its owner noticed blood on its back and felt something beneath the skin. The pellet was removed by surgery at a vets.

***The Argus***, 13 May 2009

A cat owner, who is also a vet, performed life-saving surgery on her own pet after he was shot in the face in **Hove**, Sussex. An **air rifle** pellet had shattered teeth and damaged the roof of her cat's mouth before becoming lodged in the base of his tongue.

***Express & Star***, 12 May 2009

An **air rifle** sniper is believed to have been responsible for killing a cat and injuring another belonging to a family in **Cookley**, Worcestershire. Investigations are being carried out by the police and RSPCA.

***This is Staffordshire***, 8 May 2009

Vets have had to remove a cat's eye after she was shot in the face with an **air rifle** in **Whitehill**, Staffordshire. Her life is now hanging in the balance as the vets were unable to remove the pellet which had become lodged in her throat. The paper has listed six other woundings to cats in the area in six months, four of which, in **Tunstall**, **Hanford**, **Kidsgrove** and **Cheadle**, were recorded on this website. The other two cats were shot in **Wolstanton** and **Chesterton** (*The Sentinel*, 9 May 2009).

**Chad (Mansfield), 7 May 2009**

Two cats needed treatment at a vets after they were shot with an **air rifle** in **Huthwaite**, Nottinghamshire. These incidents follow four others reported to the police this year which resulted in the death of one cat, another having to have its eye removed and injuries to the other two. All of the cats were shot with a .22 air rifle.

**Free Press, 6 May 2009**

A cat was shot in the face by an **air rifle** in **Pontypool**, South Wales, and may have lost the sight in one eye. The pellet narrowly missed his eyeball and hit the corner of the eye socket, then went through the top of his nose and into his palate.

**Lakeland Echo, 5 May 2009**

A cat has been shot dead with an **air rifle** in **Overton**, Lancashire. It was hit in the head. The woman who discovered the dead animal reported that a number of other cats have been shot in the area.

**Evening Leader, 5 May 2009**

A cat belonging to a pensioner has been shot dead from close range with an **airgun** in **Coedpoeth** near Wrexham. The pet was found unable to stand and taken to a vet but could not be saved.

**Derby Evening Telegraph, 25 April 2009**

A cat was shot with an **air rifle** in **Derby** and had to be put down after being paralysed when the pellet hit its spine.

**This is Nottingham, 24 April 2009**

Police and the RSPCA are hunting thugs who have been shooting at cats with **airguns** in **The Park**, Nottingham. There have been three incidents in the last six months, two of which involved the same cat.

**Thanet.co.uk, 24 April 2009**

A cat was shot twice with an **air rifle** in two separate incidents in **Ramsgate**, Kent. The RSPCA is appealing for information.

**Sussex Express, 27 April 2009**

A family was left distraught after their pet cat was shot in the leg with an **airgun** in **Newhaven**, Sussex. After hearing a scream her owner found her injured on the sofa. A metal pellet was found in her leg by an emergency vet. The vet bill looks set to cost over £2,500.

**Evening Express (Aberdeen), 27 April 2009**

A cat was left howling in pain after being shot twice in an **airgun** attack in **Aberdeen**. The pellets will have to be removed by a vet.

**This is Lancashire, 22 April 2009**

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A cat in **Little Lever**, Lancashire, has survived horrific injuries after being shot with an **airgun**. The pet is recovering after an operation to remove a pellet, which pierced his stomach and intestines.

**Coventry Telegraph**, 22 April 2009

A cat is slowly recovering after being shot with an **air rifle** in **Chapelfields**, Coventry. The pet had to undergo a life saving operation after the pellet went through her body and lodged in her spine.

**BBC**, 21 April 2009

RSPCA inspectors in Cornwall are investigating several incidents involving cats. In one of these a cat from **Menheniot** has had one of its back legs amputated after it was shot with an **airgun**.

**BBC**, 21 April 2009

A pet cat may need to have one of his legs amputated after being hit with what is believed was an **airgun** pellet near his home in **Allhallows**, Kent.

**This is Wiltshire**, 17 April 2009

A pet cat in **Mildenhall**, Wiltshire, was shot and injured by an **airgun**. His owner found his crying to be let in and in obvious pain. An x-ray showed he had an airgun pellet embedded in his side.

**This is Hull and East Riding**, 17 April 2009

A cat has lost its eye after being shot with a pellet in west **Hull**. Initially staff at the PDSA hospital thought he had been dealt a heavy kick or blow to his face but an x-ray revealed an **airgun** pellet was lodged in his face.

**This is Nottingham**, 16 April 2009

A cat was nearly killed after it was shot in the head with an **airgun** in **Gedling**, Nottingham. He was found unconscious with a large cut on his head in a neighbour's garden. An X-ray revealed an airgun pellet lodged in his skull.

**Express & Echo**, 15 April 2009

A cat has been shot in **Exmouth**, Devon. The family pet lost a leg in the shooting and is being cared for by its owners. A spokesperson from the RSPCA comments that "incidents of animals being shot with **air rifles** are more common than you would think".

**Western Daily Press**, 7 April 2009

A charity-run animal care complex is appealing for help with the cost of treating a dog which had received severe gunshot wounds to her head and back and was riddled with **airgun** pellets. The dog was found wandering as a stray and was taken to the home at **Claverton Down**, Bath.

**Daily Echo**, 7 April 2009

A cat has died in agony a week after she was shot with an **air rifle** in **Poole**, Dorset. Her owners spent £800 trying to save her after finding her in pain and bleeding. She had been playing in their garden just minutes before.

**The Sentinel**, 3 April 2009

An x-ray of a goose which had to be put to sleep after being attacked by a dog near **Newcastle-under-Lyme**, Staffordshire, revealed five **airgun** pellets in her body.

**BBC**, 3 April 2009

A swan rescued after a fishing hook became embedded in its cheek was later found to have been shot with an **airgun** five times. The RSPCA said the bird, which was found in **Newton Longville**, Buckinghamshire, had been used for "target practice".

**Weston & Somerset Mercury**, 2 April 2009

A cat was shot in the face in **Weston Village**, Somerset, and a pellet went through his eye. It is thought that a child with an **airgun** probably took a pot shot at the pet.

**BBC**, 2 April 2009

A cat will have to have its right leg amputated after it was hit with an **airgun** pellet in **Hinton**, Herefordshire.

**Sunderland Echo**, 31 March 2009

A pair of swans have been found dead at a lake at **Silksworth**, Sunderland. A number of **airgun** pellets were found at the side of the water. Police have said, however, that until x-rays and a post-mortem examination are carried out they cannot be sure swans were killed maliciously.

**Bristol Evening Post**, 30 March 2009

A report on a spate of incidents in which cats have been poisoned or shot describes how a kitten in **Withywood**, Bristol, had to have its leg amputated after it was believed to have been shot, shortly before two other cats in the area disappeared. PDSA vets x-rayed the cat and found an **airgun** pellet lodged in her elbow joint.

**Salisbury Journal**, 26 March 2009

A cat was shot twice with an **airgun** in an apparently deliberate attack in **Salisbury**. X-rays revealed pellets in her chest and front right leg. The pellet in the leg was removed but it was too dangerous to remove the one in her chest.

**Derby Evening Telegraph**, 23 March 2009

A cat shot with an **air rifle** was in excruciating pain for days because a pellet had left three abscesses around his stomach. The owner from **Stenson Fields**, Derby, does not know if her insurance will cover the £1500 cost of the operation needed to save his life.

**Wiltshire Times & Chippenham News**, 21 March 2009

A five-year-old boy witnessed his greyhound being hit by an **airgun** pellet as he and his mother walked their three dogs in **Corsham**, Wiltshire. Two gunshots were heard and a man was seen to run off. The dog is now recovering well.

**Reading Evening Post**, 20 March 2009

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A cat had to have one of his legs amputated after being shot in **Tilehurst**, Berkshire. A vet confirmed he had been shot with an **airgun**.

**The Sentinel**, 18 March 2009

A cat was shot with an **air rifle** in **Cheadle**, Staffordshire. The pellet went through his ear and is lodged behind an eye. He may lose sight in that eye.

**Birmingham Mail**, 17 March 2009

A male swan has been shot dead and his mate was fighting for her life at a wildlife centre after they were targeted on a canal in **Wednesfield**, West Midlands. Another swan was attacked on the same canal recently and nine **airgun** pellets were found in its body but managed to survive (see [January 2009 Incidents](#)).

**BBC**, 13 March 2009

A female swan was found dead at a pond in **Godstone Green**, Surrey. She had a hole in her neck, and experts believe the injury was caused by a type of **air weapon**. Her mate has been permanently moved from the site.

**Press & Journal**, 11 March 2009

For the second time this year a pet cat has been shot with an **airgun** pellet in **Macduff**, Aberdeenshire. The cat was lucky to survive after a pellet went through his hip and lodged near his groin. Vets managed to remove the pellet safely.

**The Comet**, 11 March 2009

A cat has had to have a leg amputated after being shot with an **air weapon** near his home in **Letchworth**, Hertfordshire. He had returned home limping, howling and crying with pain. An X-ray revealed a pellet had shattered his hip, causing considerable damage to the remainder of his leg.

**This is Staffordshire**, 7 March 2009

A cat has been left with an **air rifle** pellet lodged near its lung after being shot in **Meir**, Staffordshire. She was "crying like a baby" but there was no blood or obvious wound, but an X-ray showed the pellet stuck in her chest.

**Skegness Standard**, 24 February 2009

A number of birds and squirrels appear to have been shot with an **air rifle** on a pathway in **Skegness**, Lincolnshire. An x-ray of one of the birds appears to show an air rifle pellet inside it.

**Banbury Cake**, 24 February 2009

A family cat has been shot with an **airgun** in **Banbury**, Oxfordshire. Five internal organs were hit. Vets have rates her chances of survival as 50/50.

**Get Surrey**, 20 February 2009

Two swans found dead at a golf club in **Worplesdon**, Surrey, both had puncture wound to their heads. The RSPCA believes the birds were either shot with an **airgun** or savaged by a dog.

**The Sentinel**, 16 February 2009

A cat was shot in the bottom of the stomach with an **airgun** in **Kidsgrove**, Staffordshire. His owners are offering a reward for information about the shooting.

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### **Evening Herald (Plymouth)**, 10 February 2009

A family from **Plymstock**, Devon, whose cat was shot dead with a **.22 air rifle**, have been given a new kitten by a reader of the newspaper.

### **Burton Mail**, 6 February 2009

A cat had a limb shattered by a pellet when she was shot with an **airgun** in **Horninglow**, Staffordshire. The resultant vet's bills have been about £700. People in the neighbourhood have also found dead squirrels with pellet wounds in their back gardens.

### **Dewsbury Reporter**, 5 February 2009

More than 30 birds have been shot dead on the Spen Valley Greenway in West Yorkshire in the last month. The birds have been found by a walker on a stretch between **Heckmondwike** and **Norristhorpe**. Last week he saw two youths killing a songthrush in front of him. The youths threatened him and the police have been alerted. One of the youths was waving round an air rifle customised to look like a sawn-off shotgun. Thirty one of the dead birds have been shot with an **air rifle**.

### **Hartlepool Mail**, 5 February 2009

A cygnet had to be put down after a rampage with an **air rifle** in a park in **Hartlepool** which left two other birds dead.

### **Louth Leader**, 3 February 2009

A kestrel will never fly again after being shot with an **airgun**. It was found in a barn in **Mablethorpe**, Lincolnshire. Its right wing had been broken in several places and a vet removed an airgun pellet and had to amputate the wounded wing.

### **Northern Echo**, 28 January 2009

Two men are believed to have been responsible for a "barbaric" attack on a cat which was found on the outskirts of **Darlington**. The men had been seen carrying an **air rifle** and **airgun**. Shortly afterwards a shot was heard and the cat was found under a car with a wound from an airgun pellet which had to be removed by a vet.

### **Hartlepool Mail**, 27 January 2009

Two ducks were shot dead in the back garden of a house in **Greatham Village**, Hartlepool. It is believed that an **air rifle** was used.

### **The Star**, 24 January 2009

A cat lost an eye when an **airgun** was fired at the family pet in **Skellow**, South Yorkshire. In a second incident in the area a cat in **Askern**, which returned home with blood on its chest, had to have pellets removed from its body by a vet.

### **South Yorkshire Times**, 22 January 2009

The RSPCA are tracing the person who shot dead a swan with an **airgun** at a beauty spot in **Wombwell**, Barnsley. The bird had a number of airgun pellets lodged in its neck and is believed to have died as a result of the injuries.

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### **Surrey Comet**, 21 January 2009

Two horses have been shot in the eye with an **airgun** in **Headley**, Leatherhead, Surrey. One of them lost an eye but will recover. The second horse, which lost one eye due to cancer four years ago has now lost the other eye, leaving him completely blind. The horse has had to be put down (*Daily Mail*, 22 January 2009).

### **BBC**, 19 January 2009

A £500 reward is being offered after the shooting of several wild birds in north Surrey in **air rifle** incidents. Two swans were found seriously injured in **Shepperton** after being shot in the face and neck and a swan and several coots were shot dead on a frozen pond in **Chertsey**.

### **Advertiser (Buckinghamshire)**, 19 January 2009

A family pet was shot with an **airgun** in **Buckingham**. The cat returned home with a bruised eye and swollen face. X-rays showed an air rifle pellet lodged in his skull. The pellet cannot be removed and he may lose an eye.

### **Oxford Mail**, 16 January 2009

The owner of a cat recovering from an **air rifle** attack in **Headington**, Oxford (see [December 2008 Incidents](#)) was devastated when a neighbour found another of her cats shot dead. The RSPCA has put up a £250 reward in a bid to catch the people responsible.

### **stv**, 15 January 2009

A deer which was a tourist attraction in **Glencoe**, Argyll, because it was so tame has had to be put down after it was shot with an **air rifle** and left for dead.

### **The News (Portsmouth)**, 15 January 2009

A cat was shot five times with an **air rifle** in **Lee-on-the-Solent**, Hampshire. The pet was seen limping and vets found a pellet lodged deep in her abdomen and a further four puncture wounds. Vets fought to save her life but she died later.

### **Somerset County Gazette**, 14 January 2009

A cat owner from **Monkton Heathfield**, Somerset, has come forward to say that her pet was shot with a **pellet gun** and had to undergo an operation. The pellet went into the cat's stomach. The owner was responding to an earlier report about a dog which was shot in the head with an **airgun** in **West Monkton**.

### **Bucks Free Press**, 13 January 2009

Two ducks have been shot dead on a pond in **Chalfont St Peter**, Buckinghamshire. The RSPCA said they had been used as 'illegal target practice'. One had been shot in the head and the other had a wound on its back. The injuries are believed to have been caused by an **airgun**. A local resident has put up a £500 reward to try and catch those responsible.

### **Express & Star**, 8 January 2009

The RSPCA say they will no longer return swans to the Wyrley and Essington Canal in the Black Country after the latest spate of gun attacks. One swan, found last month, had been shot nine times when she was discovered in **Willenhall**. X-rays revealed she had been

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"used as target practice for someone brandishing an **airgun**". Two swans were recently killed in **Wednesfield** and another badly injured in **Willenhall**.

**Eastbourne Today**, 8 January 2009

The East Sussex Wildlife Rescue and Ambulance Service is appealing for witnesses after birds were shot in **Pevensey Bay**. A herring gull with a damaged wing was found in a garden, a pigeon was shot dead last month and a resident reported seeing a gull fall into the sea. A casualty care officer with the charity says that a resident is shooting birds with an **airgun**.

**Birmingham Mail**, 6 January 2009

Robert Jones has been given a 12-week prison sentence suspended for a year after encouraging his son to shoot a wood pigeon with a high velocity **air rifle** in their back garden in **Tettenhall**, Wolverhampton. He was also ordered to carry out 180 hours' community punishment. He admitted aiding, abetting and counselling his son to kill a wild bird. The shooting was reported by a neighbour.

**BBC**, 5 January 2009

A pet cat has had to have a leg amputated after it was shot with an **air rifle** in **Macduff**, Aberdeenshire. The cat has since died (*Evening Express*, 8 January 2009).