

AIRGUN INCIDENTS

2010



Compiled by Gun Control Network
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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 were four fatalities in 2009: 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/

FATAL INJURIES

BBC, 25 February 2010 *

A 10-year-old boy died after receiving an airgun wound to the heart, an inquest heard. The **.22 calibre air rifle**, which belonged to the victim's father, was fired by another boy with whom he was taking 'pot shots' at cans at his home in Llansamlet, Swansea, in September 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). The boy had been using the gun for more than two years, but his father said that it had been only while supervised. The coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death and urged parents to ensure that air weapons are not used without parental supervision. "Such weapons although not requiring to be licensed can prove fatal".

OTHER INJURIES

ENGLAND

The Argus, 20 July 2010

Three teenagers, one a woman, have been arrested in connection in which a young woman was shot in **Brighton**. The victim received a small arm injury after being shot with what it thought to have been an **air rifle**. They were suspected of burglary and possession of an imitation firearm. All three have been released on bail.

Mail, 4 July 2010 *

Two primary school children were injured in a playground shooting in which two boys were armed with an **airgun**. The incident occurred in **Little Harrowden**, Northamptonshire. One of the boys had fired the gun after a friend carried it into school. Both were immediately excluded but police officers were not called to the school. The two victims had minor injuries.

Staffordshire Newsletter, 1 July 2010 *

A teenager was rushed to hospital after being shot in the head with an **airgun** pellet. The incident occurred between **Handsacre** and **Hill Ridware** in Staffordshire.

Clacton and Frinton Gazette, 1 July 2010

A man has been shot in the head with an **air pistol** pellet in **Jaywick**, Essex. It is believed that an individual had been firing pellets at various stages prior to the shooting and that the victim's car also sustained damage.

Bury Times, 1 July 2010

A man is recovering in hospital after being shot with an **air rifle** in **Radcliffe**, Greater Manchester. He was walking along a canal when he was shot in the back and a pellet became lodged in his lung. He remains in a stable condition.

The Argus, 28 June 2010

A postman was shot in the back as he got off his bike in a pub car park in **Lancing**, West Sussex. He was hit beneath the ribs with a pellet fired from what police believe was an **air rifle**. He was left with a bleeding red wound but chose to finish his round.

BBC, 25 June 2010 †

A woman was injured in an **airgun** attack in **Earlsdon**, Coventry, in which a pellet narrowly missed hitting her baby. The victim was hit in the right shoulder and was carrying her daughter in the same arm. A police spokesman said that the shooting could have had "fatal consequences had the pellet struck such a young child" (*Coventry Telegraph*, 28 June 2010).

Daily Echo, 22 June 2010 *

A seven-year-old boy has been shot in the leg with an **airgun** while playing in a children's playground in **Poole**, Dorset. The pellet didn't fully penetrate. A man was arrested and released on police bail after police had attended an address that backs onto the park.

Kent News, 21 June 2010 †

A female cyclist received medical attention after she was shot in the arm while cycling in **Pembury**, Kent. The shot was believed to have come from an **air weapon** fired from a small van. Earlier that day a gardener working on a grass verge in **Tonbridge** had been hit in the leg by an object thought to have come from a similar vehicle.

The Star, 15 June 2010

A man was struck in the arm by an **airgun** pellet and his wife had to run for cover when a man opened fire in the car park of **Hatfield and Stainforth Station** in Doncaster, South Yorkshire. The victim's injury was not serious.

Press Association, 14 June 2010 †

A 17-year-old and a 16-year-old have been accused of taking pot shots at people and property with an **air rifle** in **Holloway**, north London. Two men and a woman suffered injuries to their arms and bodies in December 2009 and January 2010. They are accused of six counts of firing an air weapon out of a building, criminal damage, common assault and possessing a restricted firearm when aged under 18. The younger boy is accused of having a **stun gun**.

Cambridge News, 26 May 2010

A kebab van owner was shot by three men carrying **airguns** and a knife in **Trumpington**, Cambridgeshire. He was hit on the chin, arm and back when he refused to hand over his money but he chased the men away. He was treated in hospital for minor injuries.

BBC, 8 May 2010 *

A 15-year-old boy narrowly missed losing an eye when he was shot in the face with an **airgun** in **Worsley Mesnes**, Greater Manchester. He was playing with friends at the time and none of the boys saw who shot him.

The News, 27 April 2010 †

A woman needed surgery to remove an **air rifle** pellet from her arm after being shot as she queued for a burger at **Portsdown Hill**, Portsmouth.

Lancashire Telegraph, 27 April 2010 *

A teenager has been shot in the buttocks with an **airgun** in **Euxton**, Lancashire. Two 16-year-olds were present in a house at the time of the incident and the police have described it as "high jinks which got out of hand". One of the boys had apparently paid his friend £20 to shoot him during a drunken prank (*Chorley Guardian*, 27 April 2010).

The Herald (Plymouth), 21 April 2010 *

A 4-year-old boy required surgery after he was shot with an **airgun** as he and his mother were walking in a park in **Stoke**, Plymouth. His mother heard a crack the moment before he fell to the ground screaming. An X-ray showed a pellet lodged in his leg. It has since been reported that the boy was not actually shot in the park but that his injury occurred when a loaded air rifle went off when it was dropped on the ground by a teenager, who was shooting at targets, in a courtyard where the 4-year-old was playing with a toy gun. A decision is still being made in relation to police action regarding wasting police time (*The Herald (Plymouth)*, 26 April 2010).

Leicester Mercury, 7 April 2010

A man had to be flown to hospital after being shot with an **airgun** in **Barlestone**, Leicestershire. He suffered an injured back muscle. The police said the man had been injured accidentally.

The Press, 24 March 2010 †

A woman was taken to hospital after she was shot with an **airgun** in a street in **York**. A pellet struck her in the head. A 15-year-old has been arrested and bailed over the incident (*The Press*, 3 April 2010).

Hereford Times, 24 March 2010

A man was injured in a street in **Kington**, Herefordshire, when he was hit with an **airgun** pellet. He went to hospital where the pellet was removed from his hand.

Somerset County Gazette, 4 March 2010

A man was shot in the foot with an **air rifle** while out walking his dog in **Taunton**. He was taken to hospital for treatment for non life threatening injuries.

Northern Echo, 4 March 2010

A man is claimed to have fired shots at passing cars and pedestrians from a bedroom window in **Durham City**. It is believed the weapon involved was an **airgun**. One passer-by was hit on the side of the head and another pellet pierced a shopper's carrier bag.

Worcester News, 25 February 2010

Two men have been shot in the face with an **air rifle** in a street in **Worcester**. One of the victims was left covered in blood after a pellet hit him on the chin. Minutes later a cyclist was hit in the forehead, inches from his left eye. It is believed the shots were fired from nearby flats. A third man has come forward to say that he too was shot at with an air rifle in the same street. The pellet narrowly missed him (*Worcester News*, 8 March 2010).

Birmingham Mail, 23 February 2010

A dog walker was shot with an **airgun** on a canal towpath in **Moxley**, West Midlands. The victim, who suffered a facial injury, saw four teenagers running away.

BBC, 18 February 2010

A man has been shot in the back with an **air rifle** while cycling through **Reading**, Berkshire. The pellet went through three layers of his rucksack and fortunately the victim was not injured.

Evening Telegraph (Peterborough), 17 February 2010 *

A 17-year-old was left injured after he was shot in the right leg with an **airgun** whilst walking in **Orton Malbourne**, Cambridgeshire. A pellet was embedded so deeply that a two-hour operation had to be carried out to remove it.

BBC, 11 February 2010 *

A 14-year-old boy was taken to hospital after being shot with an **air rifle** on a housing estate near **St Austell**, Cornwall. A pellet was removed from his neck. A man was arrested and later released on bail.

BBC, 11 February 2010

A man was shot with an **air rifle** while playing golf on a course in **Barlborough**, Derbyshire. The victim was left with a red mark on his chest. The offender was not found.

Gainsborough Standard, 4 February 2010

A railway worker was shot with an **airgun** whilst working on tracks near the station in **Gainsborough**, Lincolnshire. He had to undergo surgery after a pellet became lodged in his arm.

Herald (Plymouth), 2 February 2010

Police were called to an incident in **Stonehouse**, Plymouth, by a man who claimed that he had been shot. A man had to undergo surgery for two chest wounds believed to have been caused by an **air weapon**.

Metro, 26 January 2010

A man has been hit by a shot from an **air rifle** in his back garden in **Hawkley Hall**, Lancashire. Further tests will be needed to establish if there is permanent damage to his sight. The victim has a pellet lodged in his cheek. It is believed the weapon was fired indiscriminately from neighbouring fields. It was the second time he had been shot with an airgun pellet in two weeks (*Wigan Evening Post*, 27 January 2010).

Hartlepool Mail, 15 January 2010 *

A 17-year-old was lucky to escape injury when he was hit in the back of the neck with a pellet fired from an **airgun**. He was with friends outside shops in **Hartlepool** at the time of the shooting.

The Advertiser, 14 January 2010

A man was shot at from a passing car in an **airgun** attack in **Guiseley**, West Yorkshire. He was hit in the chest but escaped injury because he was given some protection by his jacket and fleece.

Harrow Observer, 7 January 2010

A man armed with an **airgun** and a sword shot a member of staff in the head at a bank in **Kingsbury**, north west London. The man stole cash. The injured man was taken to hospital with pellet wounds to the head and received treatment. The weapons were recovered from the scene.

SCOTLAND

BBC, 19 July 2010

A man was shot in the leg with an **airgun** pellet while out walking on a cycle path in **Dumfries**. He felt a sharp pain in his leg. He was taken to hospital where the pellet was removed and the wound treated.

BBC, 4 March 2010 *

A 16-year-old boy was shot in an **airgun** attack as he walked along a street in **Cardenden**, Fife. He sustained minor injuries.

Evening News, 2 March 2010 †

A woman was struck in the head and hand by **airgun** pellets whilst she was out jogging near **Haddington**, East Lothian. She saw two vehicles with their windows open with the occupants holding what appeared to be airgun rifles.

BBC, 22 February 2010 *

A 3-year-old boy is recovering in hospital after being shot in the chest with an **air rifle** in **Selkirk**. He is reported to be "doing well" and responding to treatment.

Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald, 17 February 2010

Two men, one aged 18, were arrested and detained after an incident in which a street in **Ardrossan**, Ayrshire, was sealed off for three hours. A man heard an airgun pellet hit a fence behind him and second later heard an **airgun** being fired and felt a stinging pain in his elbow.

WALES

South Wales Echo, 3 July 2010

A firefighter was shot in the face with an **air rifle** as a crew was driving through **Abercwmboi**, Mid Glamorgan. The pellet narrowly missed his eye.

This is South Wales, 23 June 2010

A council worker was shot in the shoulder with an **air rifle** in **Waunarlwydd**, Swansea. He was taken to hospital and his condition was said to be stable. Damage was also caused to a vehicle. Police surrounded a terraced house and eye-witnesses said they saw an air rifle dropped from a window. An 18-year-old woman was arrested in connection with the shooting. A man was later arrested and charged with a firearms offence, assault and criminal damage (*BBC*, 24 June 2010). It is reported that the man thought that owning the air rifle would be "cool" (*This is South Wales*, 24 June 2010).

Daily Post, 27 March 2010 *

An **airgun** sniper took shots at children in a school playground in **Llanrug**, Gwynedd. Two teenage pupils were injured, one in the chest and one in the leg.

This is South Wales, 19 February 2010

A man due to appear in court to face GBH charge has shot himself in the head with an **air rifle** at his home in **Pontardawe**, West Glamorgan. He has been left blinded in one eye, lost the use of his leg and now suffers seizures. He remains in hospital.

BBC, 3 January 2010

A man was injured by an **air rifle** at **Llanelli** railway station. The victim was released after treatment in hospital. Three males and two females were arrested by police. A 16-year-old who admitted firing the gun has been given a conditional discharge (see [May 2010 Incidents](#)).

THREATENING BEHAVIOUR

ENGLAND

Shropshire Star, 20 July 2010

A fight involving at least eight people broke out in **Telford**, Shropshire. There were reports that one of the men involved had been carrying an **air pistol**. No arrests have yet been made.

The Sentinel, 5 July 2010

Three masked men armed with **air rifles** demanded money from a man in **Rode Heath**, Stoke-on-Trent.

BBC, 3 July 2010

A 19-year-old shot at armed police with an **airgun** in **Oldham**, Greater Manchester. The officers had been called to the area after receiving reports that a man, armed with a handgun, had threatened people nearby. A man is in custody on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

Evening Telegraph (Peterborough), 29 June 2010

A man from **Farnborough**, Hampshire, has pleaded not guilty to possession of weapons, including a high-powered **air rifle**. He denied possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, possession of the air rifle and affray.

BBC, 24 June 2010

A man has been arrested on suspicion of assault after an incident at an address in **Hartlepool**, Teesside. Armed police were called after reports of the presence of a firearm. An **air weapon** was recovered.

This is South Devon, 16 June 2010

Three teenagers were threatened by a gunman on a street in **Barton** in Torquay, Devon. They were ordered to run by the man as he aimed the gun at them. A local man was detained by police on suspicion of possession of a weapon with intent to cause fear or violence. An **air pistol** was seized.

Reading Post, 9 June 2010

A woman from **Southcote**, Berkshire, has appeared in court charged with possessing an **air rifle** and causing a neighbour to believe violence would be used against her.

This is Nottingham, 8 June 2010

A taxi passenger threatened a cabbie with an **airgun** before he jumped out of the vehicle and ran off. The incident took place in **West Bridgford**, Nottingham.

Cornish Guardian, 25 May 2010

Firearms officers surrounded a house in **Launceston**, Cornwall, amid concerns that a woman objecting to being evicted had access to an **air rifle**. A woman was arrested after more than four hours of negotiation and the police were "in possession" of the air rifle.

Threatening Behaviour

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 3 May 2010

A man allegedly fired several shots inside his block of flats in the centre of **Northampton**. A road was closed and residents were prevented from getting in or out of surrounding flats for several hours. A man was arrested after a siege which lasted over six hours. It is thought an **airgun** might have been involved.

BBC, 23 April 2010

Armed police who called at a property in **Callington**, Cornwall, in response to reports of disorder and anti-social behaviour arrested two men. A threat had apparently made to use firearms. A number of **airguns** were found.

BBC, 23 April 2010

Two teenagers were arrested on suspicion of carrying high powered **air rifles** in a public place. A police officer spotted them in a street in **Canterbury**, Kent. The air rifles were seized.

Worcester News, 15 April 2010

Following concerns from a member of the public when two youths were seen on the roof of a building in **Worcester**, the two were arrested on suspicion of public order offences and offences related to possessing an **airgun**.

Kent News, 9 April 2010

A man brandishing a black handgun robbed a bank in **Northfleet**, Kent. Cash was found dumped nearby. A handgun, believed to be an **air weapon**, was also recovered. A man is due to appear in court charged with eight armed robberies at bookmakers and banks over the past six months. A second man was charged with armed robberies and is alleged to have taken part in two raids, including the one in Northfleet (*Peterborough Evening Telegraph*, 12 April 2010).

The Argus, 30 March 2010

A man was arrested on the top deck of a bus on suspicion of possessing a firearm in a public place with intent to cause fear or alarm. A passenger raised the alarm as the bus passed through **Peacehaven**, East Sussex, and the driver was advised to continue the journey until police officers could reach the bus. When they got on and arrested the man they found a **BB gun** and an **air rifle**.

Daily Mirror, 15 March 2010

Reporters investigating a family in **Crawley**, West Sussex, who are alleged to have subjected fellow residents to 15 years of torment were greeted by the crack of an **air rifle**.

Tameside Advertiser, 9 March 2010

A petrol station cashier had an **air pistol** held to his head during a robbery in **Ashton-under-Lyne**, Greater Manchester. Three men stole cash, cigarettes and personal items. Two teenagers were arrested and charged with robbery and possession of a firearm. A third suspect was arrested later.

Hartlepool Mail, 13 February 2010

A man from **Hartlepool** has been charged with possessing an **airgun** with intent to cause fear of violence and common assault.

Threatening Behaviour

East Anglian Daily Times, 11 February 2010

An **air pistol** was fired during an attempted robbery at a shop in **Canvey**, Essex. The male shop assistant was not injured during the incident.

Bolton News, 28 January 2010

A maggot farmer suffered a fractured skull when he was attacked by three raiders who were armed with a crowbar, an **airgun** and a knife. The attack took place in **Edgworth**, Lancashire. The gang stole the victim's van before abandoning it nearby.

The Citizen, 25 January 2010

A teenage boy has been charged with threatening a worker at a takeaway in **Darwen**, Lancashire, with a firearm in an attempted robbery. A male armed with a **.177 air pistol** went into the takeaway and demanded money.

Slough & Langley Observer, 10 January 2010

Binmen in Slough, Berkshire, have reported a rising number of assaults in 2008-09, including being shot at with an **air rifle** in **Cippenham**. In 2007-08 someone pulled a gun on a crew in **Chalvey** before shouting abuse and driving away.

Clacton Gazette, 5 January 2010

An **airgun** was recovered by police after a man was arrested in **Walton**, Essex, in connection with a domestic assault.

SCOTLAND

Paisley Daily Express, 25 February 2010

A weapon was fired at least five times by the driver of a car while it was parked outside shops in **Renfrew**. The police believe the weapon involved was an **air rifle**. No arrests have been made.

Dumbarton Reporter, 2 February 2010

Shots were allegedly fired from an **air rifle** in the direction of a shop in **Dumbarton**. Armed police sealed off streets. A man has been charged with culpable and reckless conduct and reckless discharge of an air rifle.

SHOTS FIRED AT VEHICLES & TRAINS

ENGLAND

Kent Online, 15 July 2010

Among a shocking catalogue of crimes youngsters have committed on railway tracks in Kent was the firing of a **pellet gun** at a train at **Birchington-on-Sea**. There was also a report than an **air rifle** had been fired at trains at **Hilsea** and **Winchester** in Hampshire (*BBC*, 16 July 2010).

Citizen, 1 July 2010

The window of a car has been shot through in **Gloucester**. It is feared that the gunman may have been aiming at its owner. Police believe a high velocity **air rifle** was used. The incident may be linked to a similar incident the previous week.

This is Gloucestershire, 22 June 2010

A van was shot at and damaged with an **air rifle** in **Gloucester**. The van was parked at the time of the incident.

BBC, 7 June 2010

Thirty four cars have been damaged during a rampage in Suffolk which lasted 10 hours. The damage was done by a **ball bearing gun** or **airgun** pellet. The attacks took place in **Newmarket** and **Exning**.

Express & Echo, 6 May 2010

A window was smashed on a train waiting at **Pinhoe** station in Exeter. Police believe a stone or **air weapon** was used. Passengers later were forced to change trains.

Southend Standard, 16 April 2010

Two cars have been fired at with what is thought to have been an **air rifle** in **Southend**, Essex. During one incident in which four teenagers were seen a back passenger window was smashed.

Epsom Guardian, 19 March 2010

Drivers on the A309 close to the **Hook Junction** in Surrey were shot at with an **air rifle**. The incidents took place when cars were driving through a wooded area. The police said they had received "many" reports of vehicles being damaged, most of them with smashed windows and windscreens.

Evening Star, 15 March 2010

The window of a carriage was shattered as a train approached **Stowmarket**, Suffolk. Passengers were showered with broken glass and left frightened and shocked. It is suspected that an **airgun** was used, and the conductor saw people in a field with rifles.

Leyland Guardian, 17 February 2010

A car driver was shot at by what he thought was an **air weapon** as he was driving along a street in **Leyland**, Lancashire. The attack, which took place in January, left a hole in the rear wing of the vehicle.

VANDALISM

ENGLAND

Manchester Evening News, 30 June 2010

A family are fleeing their home in **Moorside**, Greater Manchester, after an **airgun** attack. Shots were fired on their home and car. It is the latest in a string of incidents for the family who claim they have also received threats on the telephone and via social networking sites.

The Journal, 11 June 2010

A school in **Ashington**, Northumberland, has been left with a £3000 repair bill after a total of 84 windows were broken by vandals using an **airgun**.

Exmouth Herald, 2 June 2010

A flat in **Exmouth**, Devon, was targeted in what police believe was an air rifle attack. A holidaymaker staying at the property believed someone was firing an **air rifle** through the lounge window.

Watton & Swaffham Times, 24 May 2010

Three windows at a community hall in **Watton**, Norfolk, have been damaged by pellets fired from either an **air pistol** or **BB gun**.

North-West Evening Mail, 26 April 2010

Damage inflicted on homes and gardens in a street in **Barrow**, Cumbria, could have been caused by **air rifle** pellets. Windows, garden ornaments and greenhouses have been damaged.

Doncaster Free Press, 1 April 2010

A mother was preparing a bottle for her one-year-old son when a pellet from an **airgun** shattered her kitchen window in **Thorne**, South Yorkshire.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 27 March 2010

A window was shattered by an **air weapon** pellet in **Lascelles Hall**, West Yorkshire.

South London Press, 4 March 2010

A total of 77 tower block windows have been hit and £10,000 damage caused during an **airgun** attack on a block in **Rotherhithe**, south east London. All the windows have been blasted from the inside.

Echo, 2 March 2010

Two windows were damaged at apartments in **Leigh-on-Sea**, Essex. The damage may have been caused by stones or an **air rifle**.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 6 February 2010

An **air rifle** was fired at a window in **Brockholes**, West Yorkshire, smashing an outer pane of glass.

Vandalism

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 29 January 2010

A pane in a window at a house in **Meltham**, West Yorkshire, was cracked by a pellet believed to have been fired from an **air weapon**, and another window was damaged when an air rifle was fired in **Almondbury**.

Whitby Gazette, 27 January 2010

Armed police made an arrest after reports of a youth brandishing an **air rifle** in **Whitby**, North Yorkshire, after the window of a property was smashed.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 23 January 2010

An **air rifle** pellet was fired at a ground floor window at a property in **Golcar**, West Yorkshire.

This is the West Country, 18 January 2010

There have been five reported incidents of damage to windows of properties in the **Martock** area of Somerset. The person responsible has been firing an **air rifle**.

This is Wiltshire, 8 January 2010

A shot was fired from what police believe was an **air rifle** into the living room of a home in **Trowbridge**, Wiltshire. A couple were watching television at the time. The pellet went through one pane of a double glazed window.

SCOTLAND

Herald Scotland, 19 June 2010

A window at a church in **Bridgeton**, Glasgow, has been shot with **airgun** pellets. The priest believes the attack was an anti-Catholic sectarian act. Vandals have repeatedly targeted the church.

WALES

This is South Wales, 5 July 2010

A family have been thrown off a campsite in **Port Eynon**, Swansea, after police investigating a possible **air rifle** incident found a camper with weapons. A resident living close to the site discovered a window had been broken by what they believed to have been a pellet.

OTHER INCIDENTS

ENGLAND

The Gazette, 2 June 2010

A neighbourhood in **Fleetwood**, Lancashire, was brought to a standstill as police surrounded a flat and confiscated an **air rifle**. A man was wrecking his home. He was not charged and had returned to a mental health unit of a hospital where he had been a resident.

Kent Online, 27 May 2010

A man was arrested on suspicion of discharging a firearm in a public place. Police seized an airgun and a crossbow from a house in **Lysted**, Kent. A target had been shot at with an **air rifle** without the farmer's permission. The man was later released with a caution for the offence.

Hartlepool Mail, 22 May 2010

Armed police were scrambled after reports that a man was firing an **air rifle** inside a disused chemical site in **Hartlepool**. He had been seen taking pot-shots at birds. The man was arrested and charged with having an air weapon in a public place.

BBC, 21 May 2010

Two men carrying guns sparked an armed response at a supermarket in **Droitwich**, Worcestershire. The men were found to be carrying **air rifles** and said they were shooting pigeons. They were arrested on suspicion of firearm offences, but no further action was taken.

Telegraph & Argus, 17 April 2010

Police were called to a house in **Yeadon**, West Yorkshire, after a man was seen carrying what was believed to be a **shotgun**. A man was arrested after a siege which lasted for nearly ten hours. Police were later seen taking out a shotgun and an **air rifle** (*Yorkshire Evening Post*, 19 April 2010).

Racing Post, 18 April 2010

A jockey has been arrested on suspicion of assault and possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear. The arrest followed an altercation with his girlfriend in **Newmarket**, Suffolk. The firearm is understood to have been a broken **air rifle**. He was released with no charge and commented that "this is a private matter which is now resolved".

BBC, 14 April 2010

A man has been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear in connection with an alleged offence in **Lawford**, Essex. A man was reported walking around the village with a shotgun. It was later reported that the man had been shooting pigeons with an **air rifle** and that there was no evidence that he was doing anything unlawful (*Clacton Gazette*, 15 April 2010).

Cambs Times, 8 April 2010

Armed police raided the home of an elderly couple in **Wimblington**, Cambridgeshire, after carers wrongly claimed they owned a double barrelled shotgun. The weapon was an **air rifle** which was removed.

Other Incidents

Uxbridge Gazette, 3 February 2010

Armed police went to Permanent Joint Headquarters, which houses NATO personnel, in **Northwood**, west London, after reports that men with guns were lurking in the grounds. A man and a teenage boy, who were armed with an **airgun**, had been hunting squirrels. They were not arrested as they were in a public place and had not committed a crime but were warned about their actions in future.

Local Guardian, 17 January 2010

Armed police went to a road in **Raynes Park**, south London, after reports of a gun fight in a residential property with a man seen wielding a handgun. Two men were arrested. The gun was found to be an **air pistol**.

News Shopper, 14 January 2010

Two youths were arrested in **Deptford**, south east London, after a police chase. The officers saw four teenagers, one of whom was carrying a hammer. One of the youths threw away the hammer and the other was seen to throw a gun, discovered to be an **air pistol**, beneath a bus.

SCOTLAND

Stirling Observer, 11 June 2010

A man has been charged with being in possession of a firearm in a public place near **Lochearnhead**, Perthshire. An **air rifle** was found nearby to a group of people camping.

BBC, 13 May 2010

A man has been arrested at **Loch Venachar**, near Callander Perthshire, for a firearms offence while camping. The arrest followed an incident involving an **airgun**. He was charged with a number of firearms offences and released on bail with the condition he does not enter the National Park.

Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser, 24 March 2010

Police responded to two incidents in the same evening. In the first in **Langloan**, North Lanarkshire, a minor had fired a **BB gun** which a police source said is "potentially lethal". No arrests were made but the police issued warnings. In the second incident in **Coatbridge** an armed response unit reacted to a report that someone fired an **air rifle** at officers attending an earlier incident in the same street. No one was arrested.

Greenock Telegraph, 3 March 2010

A man has appeared in court after allegedly being in possession of a firearm and a loaded **air weapon** at a hotel in **Wemyss Bay**, Renfrewshire.

BBC, 16 February 2010

Two Royal Navy service personnel were detained and an **air rifle** was recovered from a room at **Faslane Naval Base**, Argyll and Bute, following reports that a weapon had been discharged at the base.

WALES

South Wales Argus, 20 February 2010

Armed police responding to reports of a disturbance sealed off part of the centre of **Newport**. Officers broke into a property and a woman, two-year-old and a baby were taken away in an ambulance. A man was escorted to a police station. An **air rifle** was recovered from the premises. No shots were fired and no one was injured.

THEFTS, RECOVERIES & HAND-INS

ENGLAND

Cambs Times, 16 July 2010

An **air rifle** and pellets have been stolen from an address in **Farcet**, Cambridgeshire, from where chickens and a cockerel have also been stolen.

BBC, 16 July 2010

A **.22 air rifle** was among items stolen during a burglary at a university rifle range in **Swathling**, Southampton. The weapon is described as "sniper-style" which could prove extremely dangerous in the wrong hands.

Liverpool Daily Post, 29 June 2010

A decomposed body and a haul of **airguns** were discovered in a flat in **Southport**, Merseyside. It is understood that there were in excess of 15 guns. The death is not being treated as suspicious at this stage.

This is Sussex, 12 May 2010

Gun pellets were among a number of dangerous items found during a tidying up exercise in woodland at **East Court**, Sussex. The area is plagued by illegal 'wild camping', camp fires, litter on the meadow and shooting of **air rifles** on glass bottle targets.

Runcorn & Widnes World, 30 April 2010

An **air weapon** was discovered when a cannabis factory was found at a property in **Widnes**, Cheshire. A woman was given a caution for possession of cannabis.

This is Nottingham, 22 April 2010

Air rifles were stolen from outside an address in **Calverton**, Nottingham. The victim chased one offender who ran off with two other suspects.

Croydon Guardian, 20 April 2010

An **air rifle** was among items stolen during garage burglaries in **New Addington**, south London, in March 2010. A number of youths, all under 18, have been arrested at three addresses in the area.

Northern Echo, 13 March 2010

An **air rifle** was recovered at an address in **Grangetown**, Teesside, where police arrested three men on suspicion of burglary at an industrial site in Redcar.

Bromley Times, 10 March 2010

An arsenal of weapons together with drugs and stolen jewellery were found during a police raid in Bromley, south London. The weapons included a **sawn-off pump action shotgun**, a hunting rifle, an **air rifle** and ammunition. A man and a teenage woman have been charged with possession of cocaine with intent to supply and firearm offences.

Thefts, Recoveries & Hand-Ins

This is South Devon, 9 March 2010

Police seized drugs and an **air rifle** during a raid on a property in **Teignmouth**, Devon. A man and a woman were arrested.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 5 March 2010

Police who found cannabis plants and crack cocaine at a house in **Ravensthorpe**, West Yorkshire, also recovered an **air rifle**. Two men were arrested.

This is Local London, 6 March 2010

Drugs and weapons including a **ball-bearing gun**, **air weapon** and firearms ammunition were found during a series of police raids by Essex Police in **Epping Forest**, **Harlow** and **Brentwood**. Eleven suspects were arrested.

News Shopper, 3 March 2010

Police seize a cache of weapons when they swooped on a house in **Mottingham**, south London. They recovered a **sawn-off shotgun**, a high calibre hunting rifle, a quantity of ammunition, an **air pistol** and a large machete. A man and a teenage woman have been arrested on suspicion of handling stolen goods, possession of class A drugs and firearms offences.

Burton Mail, 23 February 2010

A total of 231 firearms were seized or handed in to the Trent Division of Staffordshire Police based in **Burton-on-Trent** during 2009. They included 77 **shotguns**, 90 **air rifles**, 30 **ball bearing guns** and 34 **imitation weapons**.

Evening Courier, 15 February 2010

An **air rifle**, a crossbow and suspected cannabis plants were found by police during a raid in **Rastrick**, West Yorkshire.

Northern Echo, 30 January 2010

Three men were arrested after cocaine and an **air rifle** were found during an operation when a vehicle was stopped in **Darlington**, County Durham.

Cambs24, 19 January 2010

An **air pistol** was amongst items stolen from a house in **Long Sutton**, Cambridgeshire.

Jarrow & Hebburn Gazette, 12 January 2010

Three people have been arrested during a series of raids at addresses in **South Tyneside**, **Gateshead** and **Sunderland** in which drugs were recovered along with four firearms including two modified **air rifles**, a **starting pistol** and an **air pistol**.

SCOTLAND

Paisley Daily Express, 7 July 2010

Armed police surrounded a man as he walked through a housing scheme in **Paisley** and later raided a nearby house in search of a lethal firearm. The incident occurred 24 hours after reports that a man was armed and had pulled a gun on another man. A man has been accused of a breach of the peace. It is believed no weapon was found but a bag of pellets for an **airgun** were discovered.

stv, 2 June 2010

Several **airguns** were stolen from a shop in **Kirkcaldy**, Fife. It is believed that thieves had forced entry to the fishing tackle shop.

COURT CASES

ENGLAND

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 22 July 2010

Stephen Hart has admitted unlawfully wounding his cousin at his home in **Daventry**, Northamptonshire. He had previously denied the charges. In May 2010 when the two were sharing a spliff he pulled a **.22 air rifle** from behind the sofa and fired the weapon at a wall. A second shot was fired which hit the victim in his left foot. Hart has been sentenced to 30 weeks in prison, suspended for two years. He was given a 12-month community order, a 10-day employment course and told to do 100 hours of unpaid work. He will also pay his cousin £600 in compensation.

Derbyshire Times, 22 July 2010

James Fletcher from **Shirebrook**, Nottinghamshire, was arrested after police received a tip-off that a man was carrying a handgun. His rucksack was searched and a pistol and a tin of pellets were recovered. He has admitted possessing an unloaded **air weapon** and been ordered to do 70 hours unpaid work, with £85 costs. The pistol must be forfeited.

Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 21 July 2010

John Blythe, an ex-soldier, was armed with a **gas-powered air pistol** when he tried to steal cans of beer from a shop in **Northampton** in April 2010 (see [Incidents](#)). The shopkeeper resisted and he left empty-handed. Blythe has pleaded guilty to attempted robbery and possession of an imitation firearm and was jailed for four years.

North-West Evening Mail, 17 July 2010

Michael Crook was seen by bus passengers walking over a bridge in **Barrow**, Cumbria, with a gun. Later he took the weapon, an **air pistol**, into a bar, cocked it and waved it around. The barman confiscated the gun. He was too drunk to know remember if it was loaded. The gun had been a spontaneous purchase bought the same day from a fishing shop where Cook had gone to buy a fishing rod. He had fired it into his own arm at his flat to test how dangerous it was. He pleaded guilty to carrying an air weapon in public. A custodial sentence is being considered.

Birmingham Mail, 16 July 2010

Amandip Maheri ran out of his house in **Wolverhampton** and used a gun to threaten bin men because he felt they had failed to take away his rubbish. The weapon was a **BB gun**. Police investigating the incident recovered another **airgun** in his kitchen. He admitted possessing an imitation firearm and was made subject to a hospital order.

Shropshire Star, 10 July 2010 *

Three men from **Telford**, Shropshire, Jamie Rowland, 20, Alexander Baker, 20, and Thomas Seymour, 19, shot a number of pedestrians out of the window of a car with an **air pistol**. They admitted assault occasioning actual bodily harm. Rowland and Bakers were sentenced to 34 weeks in a young offenders institution, suspended for two years and ordered to carry out 250 hours unpaid work. Seymour was sentenced to a 12-month community order with 150 hours unpaid work. They were all ordered to pay compensation to their victims.

Leicester Mercury, 10 July 2010

Four men who attacked and robbed a shopkeeper in **Leicester** in June 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) have been jailed. Zaydene Shahadat received a seven year sentence, Jason Wright, who pistol-whipped the shopkeeper, was jailed for five years and look-outs Sanchez Zampaladus and Judah Hunte received four year sentences. Shahadat and Wright admitted possessing imitation firearms. The weapons they used were an **air pistol** and a **blank-firing handgun** that looked menacing enough to terrify the victim.

Shields Gazette, 9 July 2010

A farmer from **South Shields**, Tyneside, owned two illegal and "dangerous" **airguns** which were found by police when they called to his home on two separate occasions in January and November 2009. On the first occasion there had been a disturbance at the house and his girlfriend told the police that he was hiding "dangerous" guns. Both airguns had muzzle energies exceeding the legal power limit of 12. Keith McAlpine was spared jail because the judge ruled he would not abuse the guns, which he used shoot rabbits, in an inappropriate manner. He was given a 12-month community order and a 12-month supervision order.

Yeovil Express, 7 July 2010 *

Ben Doxey, 21, was given 120 hours community work for possessing a loaded **air rifle** in **Yeovil** Country Park, Somerset. Gerald Ryder, 20, was also guilty of possession of a loaded **air rifle** at the same location and given a community order. In both cases the rifle will be destroyed.

Northern Echo, 5 July 2010

Carl White appeared to be pointing a rifle towards people at a community fireworks display in **Middlesbrough** in November 2009. He drove off before police officers could catch up with him but was stopped a short while later. They found an unloaded **air rifle**, a knife and diazepam pills. He admitted possessing an air weapon in a public place and other offences and was given a 12-month community order with Probation Service supervision.

The Press, 1 July 2010 *

A woman has been left afraid to walk down the road after being shot in the face with an **air rifle** in **Acomb**, York, in March 2010 (see [Incidents](#)). Two 15-year-old boys were playing with the gun when it went off accidentally. Both pleaded guilty to firing an air rifle in public, assaulting a third boy, and charges of criminal damage by air rifle pellet to a car and a window. The victim required a local anaesthetic to remove a pellet from her head. Both boys were given referral orders, one for nine months the other for six months and told to pay £246.25 in compensation to the other victims. One of the boys was told to pay £350 to the woman.

Evening Chronicle, 30 June 2010

Karl Walls has been jailed for 21 months after admitting assault. He pulled an **airgun** on a man who had just returned to **Newcastle** and fired five pellets into his arm. He then poked fun at his victim on Facebook. It was claimed that the violence was sparked by an unpaid debt.

Northern Echo, 26 June 2010 *

A rooftop protestor who was involved in an armed stand-off with police was a teenager wanted for threatening to shoot an officer less than a week earlier. At the time of the first incident in March 2010 he had been armed with a .22 **air rifle** in **Grangetown**, Teesside. Jack Millington, 17, later pleaded guilty to making use of a firearm with intent to resist or prevent lawful arrest and he admitted possessing a firearm when prohibited because he had served a prison sentence.

Barking & Dagenham Post, 23 June 2010

Paul Thompson has admitted arming himself with an **air pistol** during a family brawl in **Dagenham**, east London, in December 2008. He was attacked by his son and his son's stepfather after he pointed the gun at his ex-partner. The other two men have been found guilty of affray and are facing jail.

Worcester News, 22 June 2010

Michael Willmott, who has mixed person disorder, planned to rob a post office in **Worcester**. He has pleaded guilty to possession of an imitation firearm, an **airgun**. The judge described his plan as a cry for help. He ordered Willmott to be detained at a mental health hospital.

Hounslow Chronicle, 21 June 2010 *

Sebastian Mateza and his brother Pedro Mateza, both aged 19, lured a former girlfriend to their home in **Chiswick**, west London, in September 2009 where Sebastian shot her in the stomach at point blank range with an **airgun**. They left her thinking she was going to die. The two were both convicted with intent, two counts of having with intent to commit an indictable offence and a fourth of having an imitation firearm in a public place. Both were given indeterminate jail sentences with a minimum of four years. A third man, Daniel Kongo, was sentenced to five years in prison after being convicted of wounding with intent and having an imitation firearm in a public place.

Manchester Evening News, 17 June 2010

David Gray walked into the A&E department of a hospital in **North Manchester** carrying an **air rifle**. He had been drinking before the incident in December 2009 (see [Incidents](#)). He pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear and to possessing a firearm while prohibited and was jailed for two years.

Manchester Evening News, 16 June 2010

After Frank Steinfeld threatened workmen with an **air rifle** and a sword police raided his flat in **Blackley**, Greater Manchester. The police found evidence that he sexually abused children. He pleaded guilty to affray, possession of a prohibited firearm, possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and 10 counts of making indecent images. He was jailed for 12 years.

The Star, 11 June 2010

Clifford Todd from **Woodseats**, Sheffield, and a defendant in a drugs trial also pleaded guilty to possessing a **sawn-off shotgun** and owning an **air pistol** without a certificate. He was jailed for five years, minus 390 days in custody.

Barking & Dagenham Post, 10 June 2010

A pensioner accused of brandishing an **air rifle** and threatening to kill children who were throwing snowballs at his window in **Dagenham**, east London, has been cleared. He denied pointing the gun and threatening a girl aged 17 and an 11-year-old boy.

The Argus, 8 June 2010

A man from **Chichester**, West Sussex, who pleaded guilty to a number of sex offences also admitted possessing ammunition for a **shotgun** when banned for five years and possessing an **air rifle**, again while banned for five years. David Lacey was jailed for four years.

Sunderland Echo, 7 June 2010

Two men pleaded guilty to having an unloaded **air weapon** in a public place, a pub in **Sunderland** in March 2010. Kevin Bailey had just bought the gun and the shopkeeper had told him he was all right to carry the weapon "out-and-about" if he kept it unloaded and inside the cover. He was given a 21-month community order and 21 months supervision. His friend Colin Douthwaite, who had 20 pages of previous convictions, was given a 12-month community order. The gun will not be forfeited and destroyed and will be given back to the offender after the police have finished with it.

Isle of Wight County Press, 4 June 2010

David Harbour was fined £100 with costs after he admitted trespassing on RSPB-owned land at **Bembridge Marshes**, Isle of Wight, with a firearm. He was photographed holding an **air rifle** by a bird watcher who sent the photograph to the RSPB.

Keighley News, 27 May 2010

William Skelton has pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm without a licence. Armed police found a **single-barrel shotgun** at his house in **Glusburn**, North Yorkshire when they raided the property in January 2010 on suspicion of him having a firearm. The shotgun was found in three separate parts, hidden in his bedroom. The police also seized cartridges and a **.22 air rifle**. It was claimed that he had a legitimate reason for owning the shotgun, to control rabbits in his orchard, but had "jumped the gun" by getting the firearm before securing a licence. He was ordered to pay a fine of £250 for possessing a shotgun without a licence. The guns and cartridges will be destroyed.

Swindon Advertiser, 17 May 2010

Wesley Harvie from **Oakhurst**, Swindon, has pleaded guilty to having an **SMK air rifle**. He was caught with the weapon in February 2010. He was banned from having the weapon after being sentenced to custody at a young offenders' institution. He also admitted assaulting a man.

The Star, 17 May 2010

Two men were arrested after police found a gun stolen in **North Kelsey Moor**, Lincolnshire, in the back of a vehicle following a car chase in June 2009. Simon Robinson and Dean Pugh were both banned from possessing the **air rifle** because of previous criminal convictions. Both admitted theft from a vehicle and possession of the firearm, and Pugh admitted dangerous driving. They were ordered to complete unpaid work in the community, 110 hours for Pugh and 50 hours for Robinson.

Yorkshire Post, 13 May 2010 *

Azar Sulman, 20, carried out a series of gunpoint raids at betting shops in **Leeds** between November 2009 and January 2010. He returned to a branch in January 2010 and brandished a pistol at staff. He was struck by a customer and kicked the gun out of reach before sitting on him until help arrived. The gun turned out to be an **air pistol**. Sulman admitted three charges of robbery and one of attempted robbery. He was sentenced to six years in a young offender institution.

BBC, 12 May 2010 *

Rikesh Patel, 20, pleaded guilty to three counts of section 47 assault. He admitted shooting three children with an **air rifle** from the balcony of his accommodation at the University of **Wolverhampton**. His victims were a 12-year-old girl hit in the leg in April 2010 and two boys aged 14 hit in the head and neck earlier this month. One of the boys needed hospital treatment. Patel has been given three months' custody, suspended for two years, and ordered to do 180 hours of unpaid work. He was also given a curfew for four months (*Express & Star*, 8 June 2010).

This is Hampshire, 9 May 2010

Three men caught poaching with a powerful **air rifle** on an estate in **Lymington**, Hampshire, have admitted affray. Punches had been thrown when they were surrounded by gamekeepers. Aaron Barnes and Craig Daniels also admitted possessing the weapon without a firearm certificate and both received ten-month suspended sentences and were told to complete 150 hours unpaid work and must pay compensation. Michael Shanley will be sentenced later.

This is Grimsby, 7 May 2010

Richard Finn of **Grimsby**, Lincolnshire, was caught with an airgun in breach of a ban because of a previous prison sentence. He admitted possessing of an **air rifle** and breaching his Asbo the same day by drinking in public. He was given a four-month suspended sentence, a one-year supervision order and must pay costs.

BBC, 23 April 2010

Five members of a family have been found guilty over the death of a man whose decapitated body was found in a lake in **Arlesey**, Bedfordshire (see [February 2010 Incidents](#)). The victim had been kept prisoner at a house in **Luton** as a slave and for his benefit money. He was hit with bats, shot with an **airgun** and stabbed. James Watt, Natasha Oldfield and Nichola Roberts were all convicted of murder and Robert Watt, Jennifer Smith-Dennis were found guilty of familial homicide. Richard Watt had admitted familial homicide. All were found guilty of perverting the course of justice. James Watt had 14 previous convictions for 22 different offences, including affray and an **airgun** shooting.

Grimsby Telegraph, 21 April 2010 *

William Munro, 19, pointed an **air pistol** at another motorist during a chase along a dual carriageway outside **Grimsby**, Lincolnshire, in December 2009 after the other man had forced him to brake suddenly. The weapon was unloaded and he claimed his only intention was to "scare" the other driver. He admitted possessing an air pistol with intent to cause fear of violence and was given an eight-month suspended prison sentence, a one-year supervision order, 100 hours' unpaid work and must pay prosecution costs.

Dudley News, 20 April 2010

A man described as "fanatical" about firearms made a gun to kill a friend's gravely ill cat who had decided not to use the PDSA. Police officers found the improvised handgun, which had been made by cutting down an **air rifle**, at the home of Ian Hodson in **Netherton**, West Midlands, after receiving information that he had acquired a document on the making of an air machine gun. He admitted possessing the prohibited gun and also possessing a quantity of ammunition without a firearms certificate and was jailed for four years.

Western Morning News, 17 April 2010

David Clarke, described as a "weapons enthusiast", was banned for life from owning a firearm because of a previous sentence but was found in illegal possession of a gun. When police went to his home in **Exeter** in January 2010 they found a display of weapons including a **.22 calibre air rifle**. Clarke claimed first that he was unaware the gun was classified as a firearm for the purposes of the ban and later that he had understood he had been only banned for three years. The judge imposed no penalty for the firearms charge but sentenced him to a year's supervision.

Express & Star, 14 April 2010

A man from **Shirley**, West Midlands, was given a three-year community order under supervision after he admitted possession of a bladed article and loaded **air weapon**. He was found with the weapons when hiding outside the home of his wife after their marriage had broken down. His wife was regarded as being at "high risk" and a restraining order had been issued.

Stourbridge News, 26 March 2010 *

Ben Goodwin, 18, has pleaded guilty to unlawful wounding and having a firearm. He fired an **air pistol** at a love rival during an incident in **Redditch**, Worcestershire, in December 2008. Two pellets were embedded in the face of his victim. Surgery was not possible and doctors were hoping the pellets would eventually work their way out. Goodwin was sentenced to two years detention.

Lancashire Telegraph, 24 March 2010

Peter Johnson stole items, including an **air rifle** and a mountain bike, from a family's porch and shed in **Waterfoot**, Lancashire, after taking a cocktail of drink and drugs. He was seen carrying a bag, with a gun over his shoulders. The police found him slumped over the handlebars of a bike. Johnson, who had only recently been released from prison was jailed for 39 months.

North-West Evening Mail, 22 March 2010 *

A 16-year-old who was seen carrying an **air rifle** around **Ulverston**, Cumbria, and buying pellets from a shop went to the town's canal and fired the gun at a tin can. He has pleaded guilty to possessing the weapon in public and buying ammunition. He had used birthday money to buy the gun for £230. He has been handed back the weapon so that it can be sold back to the shop where it was bought. The magistrate ordered the destruction of the pellets. The boy must carry out six sessions of a youth rehabilitation order and had to pay £85 costs.

Jarrow & Hebburn Gazette, 18 March 2010

A man spotted carrying an **air weapon** in **South Shields**, Tyne and Wear, was arrested and cautioned for being in possession of the weapon in a public place. He told officers he was using it to fire at tin cans for target practice.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 19 March 2010

Andrew Heeley shot a teenager with an airgun after snowballs were thrown at his house in **Wakefield**, West Yorkshire, in December 2009. He pleaded guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm but denied knowing the gun was loaded. He had been drinking just prior to the incident. Four or five shots were fired from his **gas-powered air rifle**, but he said he was never aiming to hit the 16-year-old victim who had two pellets lodged in his forehead. Heeley owned four airguns and did target practice in his garden. He has been jailed for nine months.

The News (Portsmouth), 17 March 2010

Carl Cox hid a loaded **air pistol** underneath his jumper after his partner had asked him to move out and then drank a full bottle of whisky at his partner's mother's home in **Havant**, Hampshire. He then brandished the gun, pointed it at his temple and said he wanted to 'end it all'. The gun was wrestled off him but fired during the struggle. After the incident he handed himself in to the police. He admitted possession of a firearm and was ordered to pay a £100 fine, costs and victim surcharge. The gun is to be destroyed.

The Star, 10 March 2010 *

David Wilson, 20, was drunk when he sparked an armed police operation after being spotted topless in **Broomhill**, Sheffield, waving an **air rifle** at neighbouring houses and firing the gun. He pleaded guilty to threatening unlawful violence. He was ordered to serve a 12-month community sentence with 120 hours of unpaid work.

Harrow Times, 8 March 2010

Yannis Young was responsible for a series of raids on bookmakers in north west London between July 2007 and September 2009. He threatened to kill workers if they did not hand over their takings, as he brandished an imitation handgun, sometimes wrapped in a cloth or a sock. His accomplices stood guard at the door. He was arrested the day after robbing two premises in **Stanmore** and **Edgware**. An **airgun** was seized at his home. The other raids took place in **Cricklewood** (2), **Harlesden** (4), **Ealing**, **Ickenham**, **Eastcote** and **East Acton**. He has been jailed for ten years. He pleaded guilty to 12 counts of armed robbery and possession of a firearm with intent to commit indictable offences (*Uxbridge Gazette*, 8 March 2010).

Lincolnshire Echo, 5 March 2010 *

Two 16-year-olds shot at people and property in **Lincoln** and Newark, Nottinghamshire, with an **air pistol**. During the spree in November 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) they fired at four people, windows, a car and a bus. Car windows were shattered. The pair have pleaded guilty to two counts of actual bodily harm, two counts of common assault, six counts of criminal damage and being in possession of an imitation firearm. They have been told they could face custody. At the time of the incidents they were being driven around by Christopher Patterson, 19.

Manchester Evening News, 4 March 2010 *

Zachary Gaffey, 18, was armed with a Webley Nemesis **air pistol** when he robbed a shop in **Salford** in July 2009. He was found guilty of robbery and jailed for five years and four months. A police spokesperson said "Replica guns like the one used are almost indistinguishable from a 'real' gun and whether genuine or fake the fear they cause is very real".

Enfield Independent, 1 March 2010

Andrey Trifono was found in possession of a loaded gun capable of shooting pellets of poisonous gas. Police discovered the weapon, which resembled a loaded revolver, in a car parked at a retail park in **Enfield**, north London, in which Trifono was asleep in August 2009. He admitted he had a gun in the boot. He was found guilty of possessing a prohibited weapon, possession of an **air weapon using a self-contained gas cartridge** system and possession of prohibited ammunition and given a three year sentence.

Liverpool Echo, 26 February 2010

In April 2009 Jane Williams subjected a pensioner to an attack using weapons taken from her son's military collection. Fuelled with alcohol and drugs she tricked her way into his home and accompanied by a man in a gas mask she burst into his home in **Thornton**, Merseyside, and demanded money. She was armed with an **air pistol** and hit her victim with a baton. She has been jailed for five years after admitting aggravated burglary.

Leicester Mercury, 26 February 2010 *

A 17-year-old youth who shot at a garden birthday party in **Melton Mowbray**, Leicestershire, in September 2009 (see [Incidents](#)) with an **airgun** and hit three children, aged two, three and five, has pleaded guilty to causing actual bodily harm and possessing a loaded air weapon in a public place. He had been given an 18-month community rehabilitation order and was made subject of a six-month supervision and surveillance programme, including a three-month curfew. An 18-year-old pleaded guilty to possessing a loaded air weapon and was made subject of a six-month referral order. Two other teenager have been given police cautions. The parents of the children said that the sentences make a mockery of the Government's tough stance on gun crime.

Isle of Wight County Press, 26 February 2010

Christopher Howse has admitted threatening his girlfriend and her friend with an airgun in January 2010. He claimed he had been drinking. He had pointed the loaded **.22 air rifle** inches from the other man's face and threatened to blow his head off. He shot a pellet into the ceiling of the caravan in **Chale**, Isle of Wight. The victim escaped after an ordeal lasting an hour. Howse was in breach of a condition discharge imposed for assaulting his girlfriend. He has been jailed for two years.

Bolton News, 26 February 2010

Christopher Lowe kept a small arsenal of guns and other weapons at a flat where he had a cannabis factory. When police raided the flat in **Kearsley**, Lancashire, in November 2009 they found a **sawn-off shotgun**, a Colt pistol, a **gat gun**, a gun with the barrel removed, 10 rounds of ammunition and other weapons. He pleaded guilty to possession of ammunition, two counts of possession of firearms, various drug offences and extraction of electricity. He has been jailed for seven years.

Buxton Advertiser, 26 February 2010 *

Two men have admitted being in possession of an **air rifle** in **Fairfield**, Derbyshire, after concerned residents phoned police in September 2009. The gun had been fired but it was accepted there were no pellets in it. Daniel Nolan, 18, and Lee Binning were released on unconditional bail pending sentencing. Binning was subject to a five-year ban for possessing a firearm having served a prison sentence.

Wokingham Times, 25 February 2010 *

Police found an imitation handgun, pepper spray and knuckle-duster in a car travelling through **Winnersh**, Berkshire, after fireworks had been thrown from the vehicle in May 2009. The gun was an **air pistol** which bore a huge resemblance to a silver Beretta pistol. Shayd Farmery, 20, admitted one count of possessing an imitation firearm in a public place and Luke Muswell, also 20, admitted one count of possessing pepper spray. A second replica gun was found at Farmery's house. In his defence his counsel claimed that "It's an air pistol, not a gun". Farmery was ordered to carry out 100 hours of unpaid work and Muswell 60 hours of unpaid work. A third man was not charged.

Willesden & Brent Times, 25 February 2010

A man who went on the run for seven years after he failed to show for his trial has finally admitted two counts of possessing an imitation firearm. In November 2002 he had lost his temper at his workplace in **Neasden**, north west London, and showed two colleagues his **airgun**, threatening to use it. He had admitted to police officers the gun was his but he used it to shoot leaves in the garden. He was charged and bailed but was not seen again until being caught in September 2009. He has now been jailed for 17 months.

Evening Standard, 23 February 2010 *

A handicapped man who is alleged to have been kept as a slave for a family's own amusement before they chopped off his head and dumped his body in a lake in **Arlesey**, Bedfordshire, suffered a decade of abuse. He was burnt, beaten and his body had **airgun** pellets in it when taken from the lake. Four people, two brothers and their girlfriends, all deny murder. The brothers' parents deny causing or allowing the death of a vulnerable adult. Five people have been convicted (see [April 2010 Incidents](#)).

The Citizen (Blackburn), 22 February 2010

One of three men on trial accused of terrorism told police that video footage of him firing a gun was "just a bit of fun". Police confiscated video clips which showed the three men brandishing and firing guns in the garden of a house in **Blackburn**, Lancashire. When police raided his house they found **BB guns**. The owner of a gun shop in Blackburn who sold the majority of the weapons found by police at the home of the other two defendants described them as "just silly kids". He had posed with them with weapons in his store (*This is Lancashire*, 24 February 2010). The police had found a weapons cabinet at their home containing several machetes, an **air rifle** and an **air pistol**, crossbows and live ammunition (*The Citizen*, 25 February 2010). The trial continues.

Southern Daily Echo, 20 February 2010

Darren Dodge pointed an **air rifle** at two trick-or-treaters who came to the door of his grandmother's house in **Lymington**, Hampshire. He was cleaning the weapon and lost his temper with the two teenage girls. Dodge pleaded guilty to possession of an imitation firearm and was given a 12-month jail term, suspended for two years, a six month supervision requirement and 150 hours unpaid work. His two air rifles will be destroyed.

Kent News, 19 February 2010

Kayley Steel from **Walderslade**, Kent, was one of two drug dealing brothers who pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply crack cocaine. He also admitted possession of an **air weapon** and ammunition. He was sentenced to 32 months in prison.

Sunderland Echo, 18 February 2010 *

A 15-year-old was spotted firing an **air weapon** out of his bedroom window in **Boldon Colliery**, Tyne and Wear. Three pellets hit the window frame of a home opposite. The teenager was spoken to by officers and referred to a youth surgery.

This is Lancashire, 17 February 2010

Aaron Chivers and Liam Gray fired an **air rifle** at a delivery man in **Atherton**, Lancashire, in May 2009 (see [Incidents](#)), making him "dance like a puppet". They both admitted possessing an air rifle with intent to cause fear of violence, assault and damaging a van. Their victim was hit at the back of his right knee. A pellet had to be removed under local anaesthetic. Chivers and Gray were both jailed for nine months. It would appear they had been drinking at the time of the incident.

Winsford Guardian, 16 February 2010

Michael Holt has received a two year custodial sentence for being in possession of firearms without holding the appropriate certificates. He was arrested after a **12 bore shotgun** and an **air rifle** were found at a house in **Winsford**, Cheshire, in May 2009. Daniel Holt who was arrested at the same time was fined £1000 and costs of £250.

Evening Gazette, 1 February 2010

Paul Leather has been sent to jail for 10 months after he fired an **airgun** at a shop assistant in **Skelton**, Cleveland. She had felt a pain in the back of her head as she was cleaning in front of the doors of the supermarket where she worked in October 2009. He pleaded guilty to possession of an air weapon, breaching an Asbo and resisting arrest. The judge criticised the Crown Prosecution Service for not bringing a more serious charge.

Times, 28 January 2010 *

A 16-year-old from **Barwell**, Leicestershire, who was charged with harassment and had been accused of firing an **airgun** at his victim's guinea pigs walked free from the court after the victim of his abuse collapsed in the witness box and was taken to hospital. The Crown Prosecution Service claimed it was in the 'public interest' to end the trial but the judge said there were particular aspects of the case that caused him grave concern.

The Press, 20 January 2010

Adam Flanagan had an **airgun** and a knife when he woke residents in **Clifton**, York, with the sound of smashing glass and demanding some "glue" from people in a house. He had been drinking and had taken diazepam. He pleaded guilty to possessing a knife in public and possessing an airgun in public and has been jailed for 50 weeks which includes a previous suspended sentence.

Lancashire Evening Post, 20 January 2010 *

Sean Doherty, 20, has been handed an ASBO which bans him from carrying any form of air weapon in public for the next 10 years. He had pointed a loaded **air rifle** at a man in **Morecambe**, Lancashire. The victim was his ex-partner's uncle who had sold him the gun. The recorder noted that "there was significant animosity between the defendant's immediate family and that of his former partner, with whom he is now reunited". Doherty was also given a suspended 36-week jail term and was ordered to carry out 120 hours of unpaid work.

Lincolnshire Echo, 19 January 2010

Kylee Orton pointed an **air pistol** at the head of her ex-boyfriend during an attack on him in which she and her partner Paul Golightly also wielded a scythe and inflicted a deep cut to the victim's wrist. The two were high on drugs at the time of the attack at their home in **Lincoln** in June 2009. When police their home they found three air rifles, an air pistol, and a number of other weapons. Orton was jailed for 18 months after pleading guilty to possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, Golightly was jailed for three years after he admitted attempting to rob the victim of prescribed medication.

This is South Devon, 16 January 2010

A man who bought an **air rifle** over the internet 'for his personal safety' brandished the weapon on the seafront in **Torquay**, Devon, in November 2009. Anthony Debroize was spotted taking aim at a CCTV camera. He was told in court that he was 'lucky he was not shot' by officers who attended the scene. He had been out drinking at the time. He was sentenced to a 12-month community order and three-month curfew with tagging. His air rifle will be destroyed.

North-West Evening Mail, 14 January 2010

Alan Falloon pointed a **.22 air rifle** through the window of his home in **Barrow**, Cumbria, in August 2009 in a dispute with another man who turned up at his address. At the time he was banned from having firearms due to having served a jail term. He 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. He has been given a two year sentence.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 8 January 2010

Ian Cawood has been jailed for two years after he admitted firing an **air rifle** from the window of his home in **Middleton**, Leeds, in December 2007. A pellet from the gun lodged four centimetres deep in the back of a man. The pellet has not been removed. The shooting followed a long-running dispute between Cawood and another man who recruited the victim. He pleaded guilty to having a firearm with intent and unlawful wounding connected to the offence.

The Sentinel, 8 January 2010

A man who produced a replica gun after being tormented by a gang has been jailed for eight months. The incident took place in **Cheadle**, Staffordshire, in February 2009. Afterwards the police found two **replica handguns**, three **air rifles**, a meat cleaver and a knife inside Matthew Alcock's house. He did not have a certificate to hold one of the air rifles. He said he had been left the guns by his grandfather. He pleaded guilty to two charges of possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, and one charge of possessing an air rifle without holding a firearm certificate.

Express & Echo, 7 January 2010 *

A 13-year-old boy from **Wonford**, Exeter, has admitted shooting a 15-year-old girl in the face with an **air rifle**. He pleaded guilty to assaulting the girl and inflicting actual bodily harm. His friend, who is 15, has pleaded guilty to shooting the girl in the chest, arm and leg.

The News, 5 January 2010 *

Shane Fudge, 19, from **Landport**, Portsmouth, has admitted a racist assault in which he used an **air rifle** to scare his victim in December 2008. He also admitted possessing a firearm to cause fear of violence. The victim had been shot in the back. He has been sentenced to 12 months, and Jack Reed-French who was also involved in the attack and punched the victim was given eight months (*The News*, 15 March 2010).

The Shuttle (Kidderminster), 4 January 2010 *

Adam Phillips and Alexander Goodier have pleaded guilty to a burglary in **Bewdley**, Worcestershire, when they stole cash and a number of items including an **air rifle**. Goodier also admitted possession of a prohibited weapon, a **stun gun**, and possession of drugs. Two other people pleaded guilty to converting criminal property. Goodier was jailed for 12 months (*The Shuttle* (Kidderminster), 18 February 2010).

SCOTLAND

Wee County News, 15 July 2010

Scott Barclay had a six-hour stand off with armed police after threatening them with a **.22 air rifle** in **Tullibody**, Clackmannanshire, in October 2009. He has pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent of causing a person to believe violence would be used against them, to committing a breach of the peace by locking himself in a flat for around six hours, pointing an air rifle towards police offices and throwing household items from a window. He will be sentenced next month after an investigation into the power of the weapon.

Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser, 7 July 2010

Gordon McGuire sparked an armed siege after local residents saw him in the street with a rifle in **Coatbridge**, North Lanarkshire, in April 2010. When the gun was recovered it was discovered to be a **.22 calibre air rifle**. McGuire was ordered to carry out 90 hours of community service and the sheriff ordered the air rifle to be forfeited and destroyed.

Stirling Observer, 2 July 2010

Kieran McColl was drunk when he lifted a gun over his head as the harbour master on **Loch Venachar**, Perthshire, went to his rescue in May 2010 (see [Incidents](#)). He had been firing an **air rifle** from the boat. McColl pleaded guilty and was fined £750.

Press & Journal, 25 June 2010 *

Kevin McHugh, 21, was drunk when he began shooting an airgun into a wall in **Muirhead**, Angus. He was at his girlfriend's house where he kept the £800 **air rifle** under a bed and invited neighbours for a drink before he started becoming abusive towards his partner. The neighbours became concerned about his increasing aggression and were scared when he fired three pellets from the gun. He had pleaded guilty of committing a breach of the peace and recklessly discharging a firearm. He was jailed for four months.

Border Telegraph, 19 May 2010

Robert Gregg from **Galashiels** has pleaded guilty to being in possession of a **.177 air pistol** and ammunition when he was not allowed to do so having recently served a prison sentence.

BBC, 6 May 2010

Robert Jack has admitted robbing a store in **Carluke**, South Lanarkshire, armed with an **air pistol** in January 2010 (see [Incidents](#)). He also pleaded guilty to assaulting a man who confronted him as he tried to flee the scene. His accomplice has never been identified. Sentencing was deferred.

Greenock Telegraph, 12 April 2010

Andrew Reilly took twelve **.22 air rifle** shots from the window of a flat into a street in **Greenock**, Renfrewshire, in February 2010. He admitted repeatedly firing the gun to the reckless danger of others and was given a six-month deferred sentence.

stv, 2 March 2010 *

A man who shot a walker in the bottom whilst he was aiming his **air rifle** at a sign has pleaded guilty to recklessly discharging an air rifle and recklessly discharging the air rifle at a vehicle and having an air rifle without a firearms certificate. During the incident which took place in **Edinburgh** in September 2009 a shot had cracked the windscreen of a delivery driver's car. An air rifle, which weapons experts said was powerful enough to require a certificate, was found at the flat of Donovan Saidi, 20, the next day. Sentencing was deferred.

West Lothian Courier, 25 February 2010

In April 2009 Steven McMillan was seen by neighbours in **Fauldhouse**, West Lothian, coming out of his home carrying an **air rifle** and firing the weapon three times. This followed a disturbance when he had been chased by two men. McMillan pleaded guilty to breaching the peace by firing an air rifle and also to producing a class B drug. The air rifle was empty at the time. He was fined a total of £360.

Press & Journal, 5 February 2010

Christopher Turner was found with an **airgun** and pellets in **Fraserburgh**, Aberdeenshire, in February 2008. He had admitted having the weapon and pellets, but sentencing was delayed so that a fresh background report could be produced.

Evening News, 29 January 2010

A raid on a house in **Edinburgh** where a man had been beaten up in March 2009 uncovered an arsenal of weapons including an **air rifle**. A man who was one of a number of people who ran from the house with a variety of weapons has pleaded guilty to assault to danger of life.

Evening Express, 19 January 2010 *

Benjamin Martin, 20, armed himself with an **airgun** to confront a suspected 'love rival' in April 2009. He was armed with the weapon when the intended victim's step-brother answered the door of their home in **New Pitsligo**, Aberdeenshire. Martin has admitted being in possession of a firearm with intent to cause the step-brother to believe that unlawful violence would be used against the other man. Sentencing was deferred.

BBC, 14 January 2010

Ross Scott shot at three cars parked in a car park at the police station in **Bo'ness**, West Lothian, in March 2009. He was armed with an **air rifle** and caused thousands of pounds worth of damage. He was ordered to complete 80 hours of community service.

The Sun, 11 January 2010 *

Three masked men rushed into a store in **Carlisle**, South Lanarkshire, and pointed a gun at staff. A man who was drinking in the pub opposite ran over and jammed the door. Despite being pistol-whipped the man and his friend pulled the gunman to the ground and held him until the police arrived. A man has been arrested in connection with the incident. A man, who was armed with an **air pistol**, has admitted robbing the store (see [May 2010 Incidents](#)).

WALES

BBC, 25 June 2010

Police found a number of weapons, including a **BB machine gun**, at the home of Michael Heaton from **Leigh**, Greater Manchester, one of two men who have been jailed for posting racist internet messages. He was jailed for 30 months. At the home of the other man, Trevor Harrington, in **Hirwaun**, South Wales, another personal armoury was found including an **air rifle**. He was jailed for two years.

The Leader, 28 June 2010

James Bloor has been convicted of assault, rape, intimidation and possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. It was claimed that he produced the **air pistol** to scare his victim. At the time Bloor was living in **Coedpoeth**, near Wrexham. He has been told he can expect a long jail sentence.

Flintshire Chronicle, 10 June 2010

Jason Hughes, a former soldier, triggered an armed police response when he began shooting cans in his garden in **Mostyn**, Clywd. He had drunk 15 pints of lager and other drinks. He admitted possessing the **air rifle** in a public place outside his home and was fined £300 with costs. The gun was confiscated.

South Wales Evening Post, 26 May 2010 *

A 16-year-old from **Llanelli**, Dyfed, who admitted shooting an **air rifle** at members of the public has been given a conditional discharge. A man was hit in the head at the railway station in January 2010 (see [Incidents](#)). The air rifle will be destroyed.

Pontypridd Observer, 20 May 2010

Andrew Baker has been jailed for six years after pleading guilty to false imprisonment and possessing an imitation firearm and a firearm. During the incident at a house in **Glyncoch**, Mid Glamorgan, in January 2010 he had asked another man to fetch guns from his (Baker's) parents' house, and had held a **ball-bearing gun** to the heads of both the man and his 17-year-old daughter and also threatened them with an **air rifle**. He also shot the gun inside the house. When an armed police response unit arrived he let his victims go but did not follow police instructions to put down the gun and was tasered several times. Baker was taking diazepam medication at the time and could not recall the details of the incidents. He had a significant history of mental health issues.

Daily Post, 19 March 2010

John Forester has admitted wounding and having a firearm in a public place. He shot a teenage girl in the leg with a pellet whilst she was staying at a campsite near **Harlech**, Gwynedd, in May 2009. Forester was camping in the area with friends and had brought the **.22 air rifle** with telescopic sight with him. His victim will be permanently scarred. He was jailed for 50 weeks, suspended for 18 months. He will undertake 250 hours unpaid work and pay £1500 compensation. The gun was confiscated and Forester was banned from possessing any air-powered weapon for 18 months.

South Wales Argus, 22 February 2010 *

Ryan Lewis, 20, has been sentenced to 15 months in a young offenders' institute for possession an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear or violence and intimidating a witness. He waved a gun, now believed to be a **ball-bearing gun**, in the air at a family who had gathered outside their home after an object was thrown through their window in **Beechwood**, Newport, in August 2009. Lewis was drunk and accused them of throwing a brick through his window. The police were called and found an **air pistol** and ball-bearing gun at his home.

South Wales Argus, 10 February 2010 *

Jamie Thomas, 20, has admitted possessing a **ball-bearing gun** and **air rifle** in a public place. He was driving through **Brynmawr**, Gwent, in March 2009 when his passenger shouted and pointed the ball-bearing handgun at a passer-by through an open window. The weapons were recovered during a search of Thomas's car. He was also one of four men involved in a drunken brawl which broke out on a train from Cardiff to Ebbw Vale for which they all received jail sentences. Thomas was sentenced to six months for this, a further three months for possessing the ball bearing gun and four months for possessing the air rifle, both sentences to run concurrently with his six month sentence.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

BBC, 22 July 2010

A horse has been shot in the head with an **air weapon** in County Durham. He was found badly injured in a field between **Shincliffe** and **Bowburn**. It is not yet known if he will survive.

This is Nottingham, 21 July 2010

A family cat has been left paralysed with life threatening injuries after being shot with an **air rifle** in **Cropwell Bishop**, Nottingham. It was initially thought he had been hit by a car but a pellet was found in his spine.

Coventry Telegraph, 21 July 2010

A cat has died after being shot with an **air rifle** in **Keresley**, Coventry. It is believed she was shot at close range and left in agony. She had been shot through the leg and a pellet had become lodged in her spine, paralysing her. The pellet was impossible to remove.

BBC, 17 July 2010

A cat has died after being shot in the eye with an **air rifle** or catapult in the latest in a spate of attacks in Surrey. The animal was found by its owners in **Virginia Water**. The injuries were so severe it could not be saved. Earlier this month a cat was blinded in one eye after being shot with an air rifle in **Englefield Green** and another cat was found in **Addlestone** with a pellet wound to its neck.

Shropshire Star, 16 July 2010

A kestrel found in **Uffington**, Shropshire, with a leg injury that led to its death was illegally shot. It appeared to have been shot with a **.22 airgun**.

This is Sussex, 15 July 2010

A family from **Felbridge**, West Sussex, face a vets bill of £1200 after their pet cat was shot with what is thought to be an **air rifle** pellet. The cat was found a week after she had gone missing and has had a series of supportive joints inserted to help repair the damage done to her.

Crawley Observer, 14 July 2010

A cat from **Pound Hill**, West Sussex, who was suffering from cancer has been shot. An **airgun** pellet lodged in his chest. Vets and his owner took the decision not to bring him round from a biopsy.

News Shopper, 12 July 2010

A kitten was attacked with an **airgun** in **Kidbrooke**, south east London. He slumped down at the feet of his owner who rushed him to a pet hospital. He is still limping.

Todmorden News, 10 July 2010

A cat has been shot four times with an **airgun** in **Todmorden**, West Yorkshire, and has three pellets lodged in its body. The shootings have taken place over the last six months.

Incidents involving Animals

Morpeth Herald, 9 July 2010

It is feared that song birds in **Morpeth**, Northumberland, are being picked off with an **airgun**. Several dead birds have been found beside the River Wansbeck in recent weeks, along with a box of airgun pellets.

Weston, Worle & Somerset Mercury, 30 June 2010

A man has been warned by police after killing a squirrel in a park in **Weston-super-Mare**, Somerset, by shooting an **air rifle** from his window. The squirrel was seen to fall from a tree and was found with a pellet embedded. The shots were being fired just yards from a children's play area. The police were unable to prosecute because a witness would not give a statement.

South Wales Evening Post, 28 June 2010

A cat has been shot with an **airgun** in **Upper Killay**, Swansea. The cat was saved by emergency surgery costing £430. It is reported that several cats have been shot in Swansea in recent weeks.

Cumnock Chronicle, 24 June 2010

Vets have removed an **air rifle** pellet from the leg of a cat in **Cumnock**, Ayrshire. It was at first thought that he had been attacked by another cat.

Camberley People, 23 June 2010

Two cats have been shot with **air rifles** in **Camberley**, Surrey. One died as a result of his injuries and was discovered in his owner's garden. The other cat survived after being found collapsed on the floor.

Yorkshire Post, 22 June 2010

A reward has been offered for information on the person who shot dead a female swan with an **air weapon** at a country park in **Rotherham**, South Yorkshire. She was brooding six eggs at the time.

Maidenhead Advertiser, 21 June 2010

Animals are being shot with an **air rifle** by gangs of youths in the **Wraysbury**, Berkshire. Last week a cat owner found her pet had a wound on its head containing a lump which was discovered to be an air rifle pellet.

Beaconsfield and Buckinghamshire Advertiser, 21 June 2010

A cat was shot with an **airgun** and faces possible amputation of a leg. The cat was found covered with blood on the driveway of their home in **Beaconsfield**, Buckinghamshire, by the three children who owned the cat.

This is Gloucestershire, 18 June 2010

A pet cat has been shot in the face with an **air rifle** pellet. He was the third cat to have been shot in the street in **Northleach**, Gloucestershire, in three years. He likely to lose sight after the pellet burrowed in through the bone and sinus. The family have had to spend £850 for surgery.

Incidents involving Animals

St Helens Star, 17 June 2010

A cat has been left with a pellet lodged against her skull after she was shot in the head with an **airgun** in **Haydock**, Merseyside. The pellet has not been removed so far because the risks of surgery.

Evening Chronicle, 17 June 2010

A family cat could lose its sight after it was shot with an **air rifle** pellet in **Edmundbyres**, County Durham. The damaged eye may have to be removed.

Telegraph & Argus, 16 June 2010

A cat owner is calling for more restrictions on **air rifles** after his pet was seriously injured. The cat is recovering from a serious wound to a back leg after being shot on playing fields in **Queensbury**, West Yorkshire. A bone was shattered by a pellet.

East Anglian Daily Times, 16 June 2010

A cat owner in **Aldeburgh**, Suffolk, is warning other pet owners to be on their guard after her car was shot with what is believed to have been an **air rifle**. She discovered a pellet lodged in the shoulder of her pet.

The Advertiser, 14 June 2010

Among a number of cats, currently at the cattery at the RSPCA centre in **Norwich**, for whom homes are being sought is a kitten who was shot with an **airgun**. He had a pellet lodged in his lower jaw which has now been removed.

Express, 12 June 2010

It is reported that gulls in **Peacehaven**, East Sussex, are taking revenge for a series of attacks by youths armed with **air rifles**. The birds have become abnormally aggressive after being provoked.

Sevenoaks Chronicle, 10 June 2010

A cat was injured in a "random" drive-by shooting near **Well Hill**, Kent. A pellet had stuck in her neck. The pet was shot on the driveway by passers-by with an **air rifle**.

Express & Echo, 9 June 2010

A cat was severely injured in an **air rifle** shooting in **Polsloe**, Exeter. He was found bleeding and limping. Days earlier a pellet was fired at a neighbour's door.

Kirkintilloch Herald, 8 June 2010

A cat is recovering after being hit by an **airgun** pellet in **Kirkintilloch**, East Dunbartonshire. It will cost at least £500 to fix his leg.

Whitby Gazette, 4 June 2010

Police are warning people not to take the problem into their own hands by shooting seagulls in **Whitby**, North Yorkshire. A dead gull was found after gunshots were heard fired from what is believed to be an **air rifle**.

Incidents involving Animals

The Sentinel, 3 June 2010

A cat was shot at point-blank range with an **airgun** in **Fegg Hayes**, Stoke-on-Trent. He needed emergency surgery to remove a pellet from his neck.

Kent Online, 3 June 2010

A cat has survived being shot twice with an **air rifle** in **Northfleet**, Kent. She was shot in the spine and then a day or two later in the head. A reward is being offered for any information that leads to conviction.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 1 June 2010

Pet owners have been warned to be on their guard after a spate of **air rifle** attacks on cats in Leeds. A vet from **Pudsey** says she has treated four cats in recent weeks.

Press & Journal, 25 May 2010

A pet cat was shot with an **airgun** in **Peterhead**, Aberdeenshire. A metal pellet was embedded in her chest.

Looe Today, 21 May 2010

A cat has been shot dead with an **airgun** wound in **Liskeard**, Cornwall. Her owner found her lying on her neighbour's drive.

Bexhill-on-Sea Observer, 20 May 2010

Two gulls have been discovered shot in **Bexhill-on-Sea**, East Sussex. One died within hours and the other survived but will never fly again. The police were expecting to make an arrest. The bird that died had been shot with a **.22 air rifle** pellet which smashed the wing and went deep into the body.

Cornish Guardian, 19 May 2010

Armed police fled to a supermarket in **Wadebridge**, Cornwall, after reports of gunshots. A security guard overheard three rounds. Police found nothing at the scene and have speculated that the weapon could have been an **air rifle**.

BBC, 18 May 2010

A nesting moorhen was shot dead at a wildlife haven at **Earlwood Lakes**, Surrey. The bird had been shot twice with an **airgun**. A £500 reward has been offered.

Lancashire Telegraph, 14 May 2010

Two cats belonging to the same family in **Lower Darwen**, Lancashire, have been left injured following **airgun** attacks. Vets have said that it would be too dangerous to remove the pellets which have lodged inside the pets.

Kent Online, 14 May 2010

A family cat has had to be put down after being shot at close range with an **airgun** in **Sittingbourne**, Kent. An X-ray revealed a pellet had damaged the small intestine and entered the bladder and although she had surgery to repair the damage she later took a turn for the worse.

Incidents involving Animals

Messenger, 13 May 2010

A pet cat was shot in the neck with **air rifle** in **Ashton-on-Mersey**, Greater Manchester. He was found slumped by the back door of his home and found to have a sizeable pellet wound. A .22 airgun pellet was removed during an emergency operation.

This is Hull and East Riding, 8 May 2010

A cat rescued from a house on an estate in **east Hull** had been shot three times with an **airgun**. One pellet was removed from a lump in her stomach and two other pellets were found.

Rye & Battle Observer, 7 May 2010

Five gulls have been shot with an **air rifle** in **Willingdon Trees**, East Sussex, this year. National Gull Rescue and Protection is appealing for witnesses. Local residents have been upset when they have seen the dead gulls in their neighbourhood.

Evening Post (Bristol), 6 May 2010

A cat found near **Thornbury**, Bristol, who had been seen wandering the streets had been blinded in an **airgun** attack. A vet has had to remove any eye. A pellet was found lodged in the orbit having gone through the eye.

Fakenham & Wells Times, 5 May 2010

Inspectors at an RSPCA centre fear that ducks are being used as **airgun** targets following a series of attacks in **North Creake**, Norfolk. It is claimed that half a dozen ducks have been shot in the area during the last few months including two this month, one of which was killed.

Express & Star, 4 May 2010

A pet cat was shot several times in the back garden of the family home in **Bentley**, West Midlands. Another cat belonging to the family had been shot dead in a similar attack in 2008. After the latest shooting the cat is fighting for her life after **airgun** pellets punctured her intestine.

Gazette & Herald, 3 May 2010

A cat has been targeted with an **airgun** in **Calne**, Wiltshire. A pellet which had lodged against her spine was pulled out by her owners but there is a chance that the wound could become infected.

Weston, Worle & Somerset Mercury, 1 May 2010

A cat which had been missing for two days turned up slumped on a neighbour's lawn in **Weston-super-Mare**, Somerset. He had been shot with an **air rifle** and is lucky to have escaped with his life. The bill for the removal of the pellet from his small intestine is at least £500.

Cambridge News, 30 April 2010

In another **airgun** attack a cat had his leg fractured. He was hobbling when he returned to the family home in **Fulbourn**, Cambridgeshire. A pellet was retrieved from him and given to police.

Incidents involving Animals

Daily Post, 28 April 2010

A cat has been shot in the chest with an **airgun** in **Caernarfon**, Gwynedd. The cat survived after being treated by a vet.

Press & Journal, 27 April 2010

Gulls have died a cruel and lingering death after being shot and wounded in a spate of **airgun** attacks in a residential area of **Nairn**. X-rays have revealed pellets embedded in their bodies.

Express & Star, 27 April 2010

An **airgun** pellet was removed from the shoulder of a young cat shot in **Streetly**, West Midlands. She is believed to have been in a back garden when she was shot.

East Anglia Daily Times, 27 April 2010

A cat has been seriously injured when she was shot with an **air weapon** in **Rendlesham**, Suffolk. She had a puncture wound on one side of the body and a lump on the other side which the vet thought was the pellet.

Border Counties Advertiser, 27 April 2010

A cat was blinded in one eye by an **airgun** sniper in **Weston Rhyn**, Shropshire. His owner pointed to a further 47 pellets embedded in a wall near her home as a result of shootings which had been going on for "quite some considerable time".

Express & Star, 19 April 2010

A swan has been shot dead with an **air rifle** at a beauty spot in **Great Wyrley**, Staffordshire. The swan is believed to have been nesting on eggs, meaning its chicks will also die.

Northern Echo, 16 April 2010

A lamb has been shot and killed with a high-powered **air rifle** at a farm in **Dalton**, North Yorkshire. The farmer found the lamb in a remote field. It had been shot twice. There had been a similar incident in the same field last year when two lambs were shot and left for dead.

Echo, 8 April 2010

A cat has been shot with an **air rifle** in **Shoebury**, Essex. An X-ray showed a pellet lodged between his throat and spine which the vet was unable to remove. The cat is lucky to be alive but if the pellet moves it could kill him. In an incident which might be connected the bedroom window of a house in **Shoebury** was shot with an **air rifle** (*Southend Standard*, 16 April 2010).

Westmorland Gazette, 15 April 2010

A sniper with an **airgun** has been taking pot shots at pigs on farms in South Lakeland. Fifteen animals at a farm in **Allithwaite**, Cumbria, were found peppered with pellets and police believe the incidents may be more widespread. Pellets were found in meat supplied to a butcher's shop at **Grange-over-Sands**.

Incidents involving Animals

This is Cornwall, 15 April 2010

A cat has been shot and killed in **Helston**, Cornwall. Her owners thought she had been involved in a cat fight but her condition deteriorated and she died. An x-ray revealed two **airgun** pellets, at least one of which had penetrated her chest and ended up in her neck. The shooting was described as appalling by the local vet.

Cambridge News, 14 April 2010

A swan was shot twice in the neck and left to die. The gunman was disturbed by two walkers in **Stow-cum-Quy**, Cambridgeshire, and was carrying the wounded bird under his arm. When he was spotted he dumped the swan and his **air rifle** and ran off.

News & Star, 12 April 2010

A kitten has been left with a pellet in his skull after being shot in the head with an **airgun**. The attack took place near his home in **Croasdale**, Cumbria.

Basingstoke Gazette, 11 April 2010

Police are appealing for witnesses after a pigeon was shot with an **air rifle** in **Little Basing**, Hampshire, and landed on a house. A police officer commented that "discharging a missile, such as a pellet in this instance, beyond your boundary is illegal and could cause damage to property or injury to a person.

Dewsbury Reporter, 9 April 2010

A cat has been left with an **air rifle** pellet lodged in her back after she was shot with an air rifle near the family home in **Earlsheaton**, West Yorkshire. Similar potentially fatal injuries are a common sight at the Veterinary Group's surgeries. One of partners said it was hard to know the true picture as many owners were unaware their pets had been shot.

Express & Echo, 8 April 2010

A man has admitted causing unnecessary suffering to an animal. Paul Rafferty kept his elderly cat tethered to a tree in a neighbour's garden in **Ettingshall**, Wolverhampton, after it returned home unable to use its right rear leg because it had been shot in the spine with a **pellet gun**. It had been missing for three months and Rafferty claimed he didn't want the noise of his decorating the house to scare it. The cat was found by the RSPCA but had to be put to sleep.

Echo, 8 April 2010

A cat has been shot with an **air rifle** in **Shoebury**, Essex. An X-ray showed a pellet lodged between his throat and spine which the vet was unable to remove. The cat is lucky to be alive but if the pellet moves it could kill him.

Whitehaven News, 7 April 2010

Police are trying to trace a teenager in **Egremont**, Cumbria, after two wild birds, a sparrow and a starling, were found shot dead. A teenage boy was seen in the area firing **air rifle** pellets into a nearby garden.

Evening Express, 29 March 2010

A kitten has been shot in an apparent **airgun** attack in **Kincorth**, Aberdeen. A pellet is lodged in her spine and the vet was unable to operate.

Incidents involving Animals

The News, 26 March 2010

A cat was almost killed after being shot with an **air rifle** in **Hayling Island**, Hampshire. His owner found him badly injured and a vet noticed a small round hole in his side and removed the pellet. The cat had probably been shot from above, probably from a second story window. In December his owner had noticed a similar small bloody mark on another cat and another of his cats turned up in January with a hole in her paw. He now believes that they too may have been shot.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 26 March 2010

A cat was shot dead with an **airgun** in the latest in a spate of attacks in **Huddersfield**, West Yorkshire. The cat's kidney was punctured, and he died despite efforts to save him. Two weeks earlier a cat who had been missing for two days from his home in **Deighton** was found with a wound. The vet could not remove the pellet. In another incident two months before a cat had been brought to the same surgery with a shattered leg.

Horse and Hound, 24 March 2010

A horse found with facial wounds in **East Preston**, Sussex, is believed to have been shot with an **air rifle**.

Herald Express, 23 March 2010

A vet discovered a 5mm **air rifle** pellet lodged near the spine of a cat who had been shot in **Paignton**, Devon. His owner had discovered the cat had been wounded just behind the right front leg and found a big hole.

Wigan Evening Post, 22 March 2010

In the latest of a number of incidents in which cats have been shot in Wigan, Lancashire, a pet from **Poolstock** had to have a damaged kidney removed and a hole in his gut repaired. The track of the pellet and the level of its penetration showed that the muzzle of the **air rifle** was virtually touching the cat when the trigger was pulled.

Melton Times, 19 March 2010

A swan was killed when it was shot through the neck with an **airgun** on a canal near **Bottesford**, Leicestershire. Killing a swan is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 2001 and carries a maximum £5000 fine and/or six months in jail.

Manchester Evening News, 18 March 2010

Two cats have been shot with an **air rifle** in **Davenport**, Stockport. Surgery was needed to remove pellets from both animals. One was shot in his hind leg, the other in her stomach.

Northumberland Gazette, 12 March 2010

A cat has been shot with an **airgun** in **Alnwick**, Northumberland. A pellet found lodged in its hip was removed by a vet (*Northumberland Gazette*, 20 March 2010).

Deadlines Scotland, 8 March 2010

The SSPCA has highlighted an appalling case of cruelty encountered by the organisation in 2009. A tiny Staffie dog was shot in the head 13 times with an **airgun** in **Glasgow** by her drunk owner who left her for dead. The owner was prosecuted and banned from keeping animals and the dog, who survived, was successfully re-homed.

Incidents involving Animals

BBC, 8 March 2010

A cat has suffered "appalling" injuries after being shot with an **air rifle** at close range in **Delabole**, Cornwall. He had two limbs shattered in the attack when the pellet hit one of his legs, passed through his stomach and exited through another leg. It is hoped he will fully recover after being given emergency medical treatment.

Wakefield Express, 5 March 2010

A swan has been shot dead in a third attack in as many weeks in the Wakefield area of West Yorkshire. The bird was discovered floating in water at **Stanley Ferry**. It was found to have a pellet wound to the head, probably caused by an **air rifle**. In February another swan was shot dead in **Altofts** where a group of four men, two dressed in camouflage trousers, were seen shooting the swan in the neck with an air rifle.

The Sun, 5 March 2010

Michael Reed from **Rugeley**, Staffordshire, shot and killed his neighbour's dog with an **air rifle** when she strayed on his lawn. He had been drinking at the time of the incident. He has admitted causing unnecessary suffering to an animal and been fined £500 and told to pay £500 compensation. The gun was confiscated. He says he does not know why he did it.

Halstead Gazette, 3 March 2010

A buzzard was found with a hole in its wing, thought to have been caused by a shot from an **airgun**. It was discovered by a farmer at **Wethersfield**, Essex.

Fenland Citizen, 3 March 2010

A cat has been shot with what is believed to be an **air rifle** in **Chatteris**, Cambridgeshire. He was wounded on his right thigh.

Runcorn and Widnes World, 27 February 2010

A cat was shot twice at close range in **Sandymoor**, Runcorn in Cheshire, apparently with an **air rifle**. He has had to have surgery to remove a pellet in his leg but it was too risky to operate near his heart where another pellet is lodged.

Dunfermline Press, 25 February 2010

A pet cat has been shot three times with an **airgun** in **Dunfermline**, Fife. He was struggling to breathe after one pellet nicked his windpipe. Three pellets were found inside him by the vet who saved him.

Coventry Evening Telegraph, 23 February 2010

A swan rescued from a frozen pool in **Nuneaton**, Warwickshire, and nursed back to health was shot with an **air rifle** just hours after being released back into the wild. A pellet was embedded in her spine and as the vet was unable to operate she had to be put to sleep.

This is Plymouth, 20 February 2010

A cat was apparently shot with an **air rifle** in **Whitleigh**, Plymouth, according to a vet who examined and treated the animal.

Incidents involving Animals

News & Star, 17 February 2010

A pet cat from **Egremont**, Cumbria, has been shot with an **air rifle**. The cat was found to have an airgun pellet in his left leg. The pellet was removed by a vet who said the cat had been very lucky.

Observer & Citizen (Leighton Buzzard), 16 February 2010

A sniper has been targeting rescue cats in a street in **Leighton Buzzard**, Bedfordshire. The police believe the culprit may be shooting at the animals with an **airgun** from a bedroom nearby. A number of cats have been injured though none seriously.

Chelmsford Weekly News, 12 February 2010

Two cats have been shot near their home in **Colchester**, Essex. Their owner discovered them hiding in a shed, one had been shot in the chest and may not survive, the other was shot in the stomach and been allowed to return home. It is thought that two people with an **airgun** each may have shot the cats at the same time.

The Journal (Lowestoft), 9 February 2010

The bodies of two blackbirds were found in a garden in **Costessey**, Norwich. Their injuries are thought to be consistent with **airgun** wounds. The RSPCA is appealing for information. It is illegal to kill or injure wild birds.

Devon24, 5 February 2010

A cat has been shot with an **airgun** in **Honiton**, Devon. Police are urging people to keep a close eye on their pets following the incident.

Daily Echo, 4 February 2010

A protected bird of prey has been shot with an **airgun** on the nature reserve at **Upton Heath**, Dorset. The buzzard's main wing joint was shattered and it could not be saved.

Manchester Evening News, 3 February 2010

A swan has had to be put down after it was shot in the head at close range at a park in **Stockport**, Cheshire. An **air rifle** pellet went through the bird's eye and lodged in its skull. In the last year there have been four reported incidents of males carrying air rifles in the park (*Stockport Express*, 10 February 2010).

Luton Today, 3 February 2010

A cat returned to her home in **Houghton Regis**, Bedfordshire, with horrendous injuries after being shot by an **airgun** sniper. X-ray results revealed she had been shot by a pellet which hit her spine. If she does recover the injuries she sustained will leave her permanently paralysed.

BBC, 29 January 2010

A cat was shot eight times with an **airgun** in **Astley**, Greater Manchester. He was found with collapsed at an industrial site and had been shot in the head, neck, abdomen and paw. He has lost an eye and has had to undergo two operations. Vets were unable to remove three of the pellets.

Incidents involving Animals

Watford Observer, 21 January 2010

A cat was shot in the head with an **air rifle** in **Watford**, Hertfordshire. She returned home with her gum and a tooth hanging down and really distressed. Vets have since repaired the gum and removed her tooth and the airgun pellet.

Herald (Plymouth), 21 January 2010

A cat has been shot dead in **Ivybridge**, Devon. He was found to be struggling to breathe and within minutes blood was pouring from his mouth. An X-ray revealed he had been shot by an **air rifle** pellet which had gone through his chest and lung and became lodged on the other side of his body.

Uxbridge Gazette, 20 January 2010

A cat was lucky to be alive after being shot with a **.177 calibre air rifle**. The attack took place next to the Grand Union Canal in **Uxbridge**, west London. A pellet was removed from his back. The crime is being treated as a firearms incident.

Cambs24, 19 January 2010

A swan was found with fishing-related injuries and an **air rifle** pellet in his jaw in **Milton**, Cambridge. The pellet was lodged under his beak but the wound had healed and was not likely to cause any problems.

Kent Online, 6 January 2010

A cat has needed major surgery after being shot in **Minster**, Kent. An X-ray revealed an **airgun** pellet which had entered through his lower abdomen, hit his intestines in four different places, penetrated his liver and caused a rupture in his diaphragm before becoming lodged in his thorax. His treatment will cost about £1500.