

# AIRGUN INCIDENTS

2010



Compiled by Gun Control Network  
Last update – 9 March 2010

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/](http://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

**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**, 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

**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 legs 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.

## THREATENING BEHAVIOUR

### ENGLAND

**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.

**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**

*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

**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.

**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.

## OTHER INCIDENTS

### ENGLAND

*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

*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

***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**.

## COURT CASES

### ENGLAND

**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 and (*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 teenagers 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.

**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. He will be sentenced later.

**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****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 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.

**WALES****South Wales Argus**, 22 February 2010 \*

Ryan Lewis, 20, has been sentenced to 15 months in a young offenders' institute for possession of 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

### ***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.

### ***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.

## Incidents involving Animals

### **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.

### **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).

## Incidents involving Animals

### **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.

### **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.