

AIRGUN INCIDENTS

2011



Compiled by Gun Control Network
Last update – 1 April 2011

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.

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For all gun incidents visit GCN's website at www.gun-control-network.org/

INJURIES

ENGLAND

Eastern Daily Press, 31 March 2011 *

A 17-year-old has suffered a neck wound after an **air weapon** was fired at him in **Lowestoft**, Suffolk. He heard the sound of one shot and then heard the noise again and felt an object hit his neck.

24dash.com, 23 March 2011 *†

Six people were hit by what were believed to be **air rifle** pellets in **Hastings**, East Sussex. Two victims, a 14-year-old boy who was shot in the neck and a woman shot in the leg were taken to hospital and are expected to require surgery to remove pellets. The other victims were a teenage girl, two other women and a man. Three men and a woman, all aged between 17 and 20, have been arrested on suspicion of firearms offences and actual bodily harm.

Liverpool Echo, 21 March 2011

Two men were injured when **airgun** shots were fired at passers-by from the window of a flat in **Wallasey**, Merseyside. One victim had to have a pellet removed from his head and the other victim was hit on the upper body. Six teenagers have been arrested on suspicion of wounding (*Liverpool Echo*, 30 March 2011).

The Advertiser, 11 March 2011

Police are investigating an incident in which a teacher at a school in **Leyburn**, North Yorkshire, was shot in the back with an **air rifle** by a pupil. One witness said that the shot nearly hit a six-year-old girl standing next to the teacher. The witness was concerned that the incident was being "brushed under the carpet".

The Argus, 3 March 2011 †

An elderly woman was shot in the knee with an airgun pellet while she was out shopping in **Hastings**, East Sussex. Earlier in the day the window of a vet's practice was shot through by another airgun pellet. A man was arrested on suspicion of assault occasioning actual bodily harm and criminal damage. An **air rifle** was seized.

Observer, 27 February 2011

A Premier League footballer is reported to have shot and wounded a student on work experience at his club's training ground in **Cobham**, Surrey. The player arrived holding the **.22 air rifle**, complete with a muzzle and night scope, and the weapon is alleged to have gone off accidentally whilst he was "larking about". The incident is to be investigated by the police (*Guardian*, 27 February 2011) but it has been reported that no charges will be brought (*Press Association*, 10 March 2011).

Harrow Observer, 10 February 2011 *

A 5-year-old boy playing with his brothers in **Wembley**, north west London, has been shot in the back of the head with an **air rifle**. The incident has been linked to two other shootings in the same road in which a man was shot in the stomach and elbow and another man was hit in the back of his head while washing his car. Three teenagers have been arrested for three counts of actual bodily harm and possession of a firearm in a public place.

BBC, 5 February 2011 *

A 15-year-old was left with facial injuries after being shot with an **airgun** in **Gateshead**, Tyneside. Two young men have been arrested. There were other reports from Gateshead. A taxi driver reported damage to his vehicle by an airgun pellet and a report was received from a bus driver that pellets had been fired (*Northern Echo*, 5 February 2011).

The Herald (Plymouth), 11 January 2011 *

A 15-year-old boy was shot twice in the head with an **airgun** in **Brixham**, Devon. He heard a shot and then felt pain in his temple and behind his ear. He did not see his attackers.

SCOTLAND

Daily Mail, 23 February 2011 *†

A number of school pupils were injured when someone took potshots at them with an **air weapon** during their lunch break in **Auchinleck**, Ayrshire. The victims went to hospital for medical attention and one of them was detained for further treatment. Five girls and six boys were struck by pellets, mainly on their legs and torsos. At least one property nearby had its windows shattered. An 18-year-old and a 15-year-old boy have been charged with assault (*BBC*, 24 February 2011). A third teenager is due in court in connection with the attack (*stv*, 25 February 2011).

THREATENING BEHAVIOUR

ENGLAND

BBC, 31 March 2011

A man has been arrested after reports of someone firing an **air rifle** at members of the public in **Stoke-on-Trent**. The gun was being fired from a bedroom window (*The Sentinel*, 1 April 2011).

Leicester Mercury, 29 March 2011

A man was robbed in a park in **Birstall**, Leicester. He was approached by two men who threatened him with a weapon believed to be an **airgun**. They ran off with cash and a mobile phone.

The Herald (Plymouth), 24 March 2011

A man from **Devonport**, Devon, has appeared in court accused of putting an **air pistol** to the stomach of an ex-girlfriend. He is charged with possessing a firearm with intent to cause her to believe that violence would be used against her or another.

Southport Visiter, 18 March 2011

A worker at a jewellers in **Tarleton**, Lancashire, was shot with an airgun during a raid on the premises. The offenders fled empty-handed. The victim suffered minor injuries to his chest and ear. The weapon has since been described as a **ball-bearing air rifle** (*Lancashire Evening Post*, 21 March 2011).

BBC, 2 March 2011

Police officers were called to reports of a robbery at a post office in **Weymouth**, Dorset. A gunman escaped in a vehicle. Following the raid a police officer was threatened with a gun and a woman's car was stolen. A man has now been arrested. A loaded firearm, believed to be a .22 rifle, was recovered near the scene of the arrest and an **air rifle** was later recovered from a car (BBC, 5 March 2011). The man has been charged with a number of offences including robbery, possession of a firearm while committing a schedule one offence (two charges) and possession of a firearm with intent to resist arrest (two charges) (BBC, 6 March 2011). Two other people have been arrested on suspicion of assisting an offender.

The Sentinel, 24 February 2011

Armed police were called to an incident in **Bentilee**, Stoke-on-Trent, in which a man who had complained about the noise youths were making outside his home was glassed with a bottle and threatened with an **air pistol**. The weapon was recovered and a 16-year-old was arrested.

Burton Mail, 16 February 2011

A taxi driver was challenged by a gun-wielding motorist who crashed into the side of his cab in **Burton-on-Trent**, Staffordshire. A man was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and possession of an offensive weapon. An unloaded **air rifle** and a craft knife were recovered by police.

Threatening Behaviour

The Shuttle, 14 February 2011

Police were called to a flat in **Kidderminster**, Worcestershire, after two men claimed they had been threatened with a firearm. Seven people, four men and three women, were arrested, three of them on suspicion of possession of an imitation firearm. Four were also arrested on suspicion of firearms offences and have been released without charge. Two men were arrested on suspicion of affray. An **airgun** was among items recovered.

Rutland & Stamford Mercury, 21 January 2011

Police seized an **air rifle** at the scene of an incident in **Bourne**, Lincolnshire. A man was arrested on suspicion of making threats to kill.

Weston, Worle & Somerset Mercury, 18 January 2011

Police were called to the centre of **Yatton**, Somerset, after passers-by reported an incident involving a firearm. A man has denied two charges of possession of a loaded **air weapon** in a public place and using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour (*Evening Post* (Bristol), 2 March 2011).

News Guardian, 18 January 2011

Three people were arrested in **Whitley Bay**, Tyneside, after police were called to a street in Whitley Bay following concerns about a resident. An **air weapon** has been recovered. Whitley and neighbouring **Cullercoats** were placed on lockdown during the police operation (*The Journal*, 19 January 2011). The weapon was being wielded by a woman and was pointed at a taxi driver and another woman (*Evening Chronicle*, 19 January 2011).

WALES

South Wales Argus, 7 January 2011

Revellers at a nightclub in **Abergavenny**, Gwent, were left traumatised after a man brandished an **air pistol** and threatened staff. A man has been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and making threats to kill.

SHOTS FIRED AT VEHICLES & TRAINS

ENGLAND

BBC, 23 February 2011

Two people in a car shot at five vehicles in **Glossop**, Derbyshire. They used an **air rifle** to damage windows. A man has been arrested in connection with the incident.

BBC, 7 January 2011

An **air rifle** was fired at a train smashing its windscreen as it travelled under a bridge in **Normanton**, West Yorkshire. British Transport Police want to speak to three youths seen on the bridge.

SCOTLAND

Hamilton Advertiser, 3 March 2011

Firefighter crews have been shot at at least six times in the past five weeks when called out to an area in **Hamilton**, South Lanarkshire. One **airgun** pellet smashed the side window of a fire engine.

Vandalism

VANDALISM

ENGLAND

Whitby Gazette, 18 February 2011

Youngsters have been reported causing damage to allotments in **Whitby**, North Yorkshire, with reports they have been firing **air rifle** pellets.

OTHER INCIDENTS

ENGLAND

News Shopper, 31 March 2011

Armed police were called to a street in **Eltham**, south east London, after reports that a man carrying a gun was threatening to kill himself. An **airgun** was recovered and a man was arrested but later released without charge.

Evening Telegraph (Peterborough), 14 March 2011

Police have confirmed that they have visited a shop in **Peterborough** to advise the owners about the sale of **BB guns**. They are concerned about a recent rise in the number of incidences reported to officers of BB guns and **air rifles** being seen, particularly in the **Ortons** area of the city. In one incident two 18-year-olds were caught firing BB guns at one another across a square among shoppers.

Bucks Herald, 2 March 2011

An **air weapon** was seized after police received calls about a man in distress in a street in **Aston Clinton**, Buckinghamshire, who was holding a weapon. A man was arrested on suspicion of firearms offences.

Braintree & Witham Times, 22 February 2011

Gunshots were heard from a car near **Coggeshall**, Essex. A man was arrested later on suspicion of discharging a firearm within fifty feet of a highway. Three **air rifles** were seized by officers.

Times Series, 16 February 2011

Two 14-year-old boys were arrested after a robbery outside a school in **Hendon**, north west London. They were found with a **gas powered airgun**, lock-knife and items alleged to have been stolen. They have been charged with four counts of robbery, two counts of possession of sharply bladed articles and one count of possession of an imitation firearm.

Ely Standard, 10 February 2011

Police were called to a secondary school in **Ely**, Cambridgeshire, after reports that a teenage boy had a gun. The weapon was an **air rifle**. The pupil was arrested and was bailed later.

Scarborough Evening News, 14 January 2011

A man from **Scarborough**, North Yorkshire, has appeared in court charged under the Firearms Act 1968 with possessing three different types of prohibited weapon, namely a self-loading pistol with a barrel less than 12 inches in length, an **air pistol** adapted for use with a self-contained gas cartridge system and a revolver also with a barrel less than 12 inches in length.

SCOTLAND

Evening Express, 5 March 2011

A woman has denied culpably and recklessly discharging an **air pistol** in a communal garden in **Aberdeen** in July 2010.

WALES

Cambrian News, 17 February 2011

A man was arrested in **Pwllheli**, Gwynedd, after armed police were alerted when a man carrying an **airgun** was spotted.

THEFTS, RECOVERIES & HAND-INS

ENGLAND

Berwickshire News, 31 March 2011

An **air rifle** has been taken from a caravan at a holiday park in **Eyemouth**, Berwickshire. The rifle and accessories were stolen at some time during the last three and a half months.

Lancashire Evening Post, 10 March 2011

An **airgun** was among items stolen during a raid on a house in **Much Hoole**, Lancashire.

Redditch Advertiser, 26 February 2011

Thieves who broke into a community building in Redditch, Worcestershire, used by groups including scouts stole five **.177 air rifles**, an **air pistol** and 30 arrows used for archery practice.

Northern Echo, 24 February 2011

Cash and an **air weapon** were seized from a property in **Easington Lane**, County Durham, during a series of police raids as part of an ongoing campaign to target burglaries. One man was arrested on suspicion of money laundering, handling stolen property and being concerned in the supply of drugs.

The Shuttle, 27 January 2011

Thieves who broke into 21 caravans at a caravan park in **Far Forest**, Worcestershire, while the residents were away stole a number of items including an **airgun**.

This is Kent, 2 February 2011

An **air rifle** was confiscated from a house in **Sittingbourne**, Kent, where a man jumped from a chimney after an hour-long stand-off with police. He was wanted by police after allegedly breaching bail conditions for an offence of domestic assault.

BBC, 24 January 2011

An **air rifle** was seized during a series of raids in **Merseyside** targeting drug and gun crime. Eleven men and four women were being held on suspicion of conspiracy to supply class A drugs. Some of them were also being questioned on suspicion of firearms offences.

This is the West Country, 19 January 2011

An **air rifle** was taken during a burglary in **Chittlehampton**, Devon.

COURT CASES

ENGLAND

Halifax Courier, 30 March 2011

Stuart Wardle shot a boy in **Halifax**, West Yorkshire, with an **air rifle** in December 2010. The 16-year-old victim was walking with a group of friends when they passed Wardle wearing a camouflage jacket and carrying what looked like a real rifle. After they had walked on Wardle fired the gun at them hitting the victim in the hip. He has admitted possession of an imitation firearm and assault occasioning actual bodily harm and been jailed for two years and eight months. The incident happened five days after Wardle was sentenced to a community order for battery.

The Gazette, 29 March 2011

Alan Bentley became annoyed at the noise coming from a group of teenage campers whilst he was fishing in **Greenhalgh**, Lancashire, in September 2011. He armed himself with an **air rifle** and started firing at them. He also threw bottles of petrol at them. Bentley, who was on licence after being convicted of drug dealing, has been jailed.

Ealing Today, 28 March 2011

Desmond Lambert who tried to rob another man at gunpoint in his home in **South Ealing**, west London, in August 2010 has been jailed for eight years. He was armed with an **air pistol**. The victim managed to slam the door shut and contacted the police. Lambert was found guilty of aggravated burglary and possession of a firearm to commit an indictable offence.

Croydon Advertiser, 18 March 2011

A man from **Carshalton**, south London, described as a "gun enthusiast", pointed an **airgun** at a girl's face after a group of teenagers told him he looked like Father Christmas. Hugh Vipond has been found guilty of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. The weapon had the same appearance as a normal pistol and was capable of killing someone if fired at a vulnerable part of the body. He admitted keeping an air rifle in his garden shed to shoot at herons who preyed on fish in his two ponds.

News & Star, 16 March 2011

Steven Clark was arrested after being seen with a **.22 air rifle** in a store in **Carlisle**. He has pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and to possessing a firearm when he was prohibited from doing so by being an ex-prisoner.

This is South Wales, 11 March 2011

Andrew Bidder seriously injured his ex-girlfriend by shooting her with an **airgun**. The incident took place at an address in **Morrison**, Swansea, in November 2010. The victim suffered injuries to her face, arms and legs and had to undergo surgery to have pellets removed. Bidder had been drinking heavily. He had admitted unlawful wounding but originally denied wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. He changed his plea and accepted that he had intended serious injury and has been jailed for six years.

Daily Gazette, 8 March 2011

Terry Peasey was upset over someone parking near his home in **Colchester**, Essex, and following a row with the driver he went home and took out a **.22 air rifle**. When the police called he denied having the gun. He has now admitted possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence and was given a four-month prison sentence, suspended for two years. He was given 240-hours unpaid work.

Stourbridge News, 4 March 2011

Lee Hickman pistol whipped a man in the face when he robbed him in **Stourbridge**, Worcestershire. He headbutted a second man as he and Oliver Lloyd, 19, demanded the victims' wallets and phones. Hickman and Lloyd admitted two charges of robbery and possessing an imitation firearm, an **air pistol** that resembled a handgun. Hickman was locked up for five years, and Lloyd was sent to a Young Offenders' Institution for two-and-a-half years.

Herald Express, 3 March 2011 *

Joshua Bush, 21, Michael Fallon, 18, and Matthew Webber, 18, took potshots with a **.177 air rifle** at a teenage girl's house outside **Newton Abbot**, in October 2010. Fallon, who had used cannabis that night, had intended taking the gun and pellets to **Berry Pomeroy** with the intention of frightening the public, but they returned to the girl's home. All three pleaded guilty to possession of an unloaded air rifle and joint criminal damage. Bush and Fallon were both given 60-day jail sentences and Webber an eight-week jail term all suspended for 12 months. All three were sentenced to 150 hours of unpaid work.

Hartlepool Mail, 1 March 2011

Jonathan Wilson was banned from keeping guns after a previous conviction but when police raided his home in **Hartlepool**, Teesside, in July 2010 they found two **airguns**, one on a bathroom shelf and another behind a bath panel. Pellets were found in the kitchen. Wilson claimed the weapon behind the bath was already there when he moved in but that the other gun had been bought by his girlfriend for "messing around" with paper targets. He admitted two counts of possessing a firearm while prohibited from doing so and one of possessing ammunition. He was given a two-year community order with supervision and 80-hours unpaid work.

Lincolnshire Echo, 25 February 2011

Gary Noble from **Glebe Park**, Lincoln, threatened to shoot his ex-girlfriend during "menacing" phone calls to police. He said he had a loaded shotgun and would "put a bullet" in her. He was an **air rifle** owner. He pleaded guilty to two charges of making menacing phone calls and has been sentenced to a 12-month supervision order with conditions not to contact his former partner or own air weapons.

This is Hull & East Riding, 17 February 2011

A burglar who has been sent to a young offenders' institution for 18 months after pleading guilty was shot twice with an **air rifle** by the householder in **Bransholme**, Hull. He had claimed to have been shot at through a window. The householder was left free of any charge as it was considered he acted in self-defence.

Press Association, 15 February 2011

James Allen has admitted hoarding an arsenal of weapons at his scrapyards in **Clapham**, south west London. He claimed he did not know the weapons were illegal and he had them to protect his business. The weapons were discovered in May 2010 and included a revolver, a stun gun and an **air rifle** which Allen was barred from possessing. He admitted possessing a gun, ammunition and a stun gun and two further charges of possessing a single shot revolver and ammunition were ordered to remain on file. Sentencing was deferred.

Shropshire Star, 22 February 2011

Mark Gill has been jailed for a year after threatening to shoot party-goers at a neighbour's house in **Bridgnorth**, Shropshire, with an **air rifle**. He had been bingeing on alcohol before the incident in July 2010. He was convicted of possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

Oxford Mail, 7 February 2011

Alan Jenson admitted possessing an unloaded **air weapon** in a public place in **Didcot**, Oxfordshire, in June 2010. He was given a 12-month conditional discharge and told to pay costs.

The Herald (Plymouth), 3 February 2011

A pensioner has denied shooting a teenager in the neck after being pestered by a gang in **St Austell**, Cornwall, in February 2010. He denies one count of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and denies one count of unlawful wounding. He has accepted that the pellet was from his **air rifle** but he says the gun went off accidentally. Alfred Tipson was cleared of the wounding charges but admitted possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear (*BBC*, 4 February 2011). He was sentenced to eight months jail suspended for two years and banned from keeping firearms for two years (*BBC*, 3 March 2011).

Evening Chronicle, 1 February 2011 *

Lee McCartney, 20, was caught carrying an imitation gun in public. He had picked up an **air pistol** to scare off a group who turned up at his girlfriend's home in **Chopwell**, Tyneside, after she had been exchanging insults with another woman on Facebook. His offence was in breach of a suspended sentence imposed last year and he has been jailed for 14 weeks.

Derby Telegraph, 31 January 2011 *

A father who went to reclaim his son's stolen bike was threatened with an **air rifle** by a 15-year-old boy. The victim had parked near the boy's home in **Allenton**, Derby, in June 2010 and had confronted him before the teenager escaped and returned with the air rifle. The offender has admitted possession of an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, theft, burglary and robbery. He has been given a two-year detention and training order.

Leicester Mercury, 22 January 2011 *

Brinderpal Singh Shoker, 18, and Jedson Bailey, 19, have been sentenced to three years and four months after they attacked and robbed three friends whilst they were eating a takeaway in **Leicester**, in August 2010. One of the teenagers pointed an **air pistol** at the victims. They both admitted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

Express & Echo, 11 January 2011 *

Jamie Jones has pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm, a **gas-powered air rifle**, without the correct licence. He has pleaded not guilty to another offence of possessing a firearm with intent to cause a man fear of violence. That charge arose from an alleged incident which happened on land near a site owned by the other man near **Wonford**, Devon, in February 2010 when he had a rifle pointed at him and four or five shots were fired. Jones has been jailed for nine months (*Express & Echo*, 15 February 2011).

Express & Echo, 11 January 2011

Jamie Jones has pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm, a **gas-powered air rifle**, without the correct licence. He has pleaded not guilty to another offence of possessing a firearm with intent to cause a man fear of violence. That charge arose from an alleged incident which happened on land near a site owned by the man near **Wonford**, Devon, in February 2010 when he had a rifle pointed at him and four or five shots were fired.

SCOTLAND

West Lothian Courier, 3 February 2011

Paul McManus and Andrew Caldwell had taken drink and drugs when they attempted to rob a service station in **Livingston**, West Lothian, in October 2010. Caldwell was armed with an **airgun** but was recognised by one of the staff. The two men pled guilty to the attempted robbery. McManus was jailed for 10 months and Caldwell for a year.

stv, 3 February 2011 *

Two drunken youths armed with an **air rifle** stole a pet rabbit from a children's nursery in **Peebles** in October 2010. Craig Robertson, 20, had bought a £150 air rifle the day before with a view to making money shooting rabbits. He and Stephen McLeod, 19, believed they did not harm the animal which they said was released into the wild but the sheriff has cast doubt on their story and implied that the pet, which has not been found, could have been used for target practice. They both pled guilty to stealing the rabbit. Sentencing was deferred.

WALES

Milford & West Wales Mercury, 13 January 2011

A man who is alleged to have dressed in camouflage clothing and claiming to be in the SAS threatened a group of teenagers with a rifle is on trial accused of possessing a firearm with the intention of causing fear of violence. The incident is alleged to have taken place in **Milford Haven**, Pembrokeshire, in June 2010. He is alleged to have been drinking lager on top of prescribed medication at the time. The weapon was an **air rifle** powerful enough to be classed as a firearm. A jury found him not guilty (*Milford & West Wales Mercury*, 20 January 2011).

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Berwick Advertiser, 26 March 2011

Post mortems have revealed that two gulls found in **Berwick-upon-Tweed**, Northumberland, had been shot with an **air rifle**.

Essex County Standard, 24 March 2011

A family is appealing for help to catch the person who shot their cat with an **air rifle** in **West Mersea**, Essex. A pellet had pierced her hip.

Braintree & Witham Times, 17 March 2011

A cat thought to have been hit by a car was found to have an **air rifle** pellet lodged in her side. She was shot in **Braintree**, Essex.

The Herald (Plymouth), 16 March 2011

A cat has been shot with an **air weapon** in **Whitleigh**, Plymouth. She has been left with a pellet in her left flank after treatment at a vets.

Evening Post (Bristol), 15 March 2011

There has been a spate of cat shootings in **Southmead**, Bristol, by someone using an **air rifle**. Most of the incidents have involved animals whose owners live on one street and several cats are currently missing. One cat returned home with a pellet wound and died in her bed, another owned by the same person was found shot dead in an alleyway and two more have been shot in the shoulder. A neighbour's cat was shot in February 2011.

Hinckley Times, 11 March 2011

A pet cat has been shot with an **airgun** in **Hinckley**, Leicestershire. His owner found him bleeding from a wound in his leg. X-rays revealed there was a pellet in his back. He is recovering but is now quite nervous and very jumpy.

The Courier, 10 March 2011

A cat originally thought to have been involved in a traffic accident was found to have a shattered **airgun** pellet lodged in her skull. She had been shot at point-blank range in **Crossford**, Fife.

This is Gloucestershire, 4 March 2011

A sheep has been shot in the eye with an **air rifle** at a farm in **Deerhurst**, Gloucestershire. The animal survived but has possibly lost the sight of the injured eye.

Bracknell Forest Standard, 4 March 2011

A cat has been shot with an **air rifle** in **Warfield**, Berkshire, leaving him with injuries so severe he had to be put down. He suffered a shattered spine.

Incidents involving Animals

BBC, 2 March 2011

Darrell Duffill from **Looe**, Cornwall, had been drinking when he shot a donkey belonging to his sister in the temple with an **air rifle** and then fired another two shots. The donkey died. The incident followed an argument. Duffill has admitted criminal damage. He has been jailed for 56 days and ordered to pay his sister £200 compensation (*BBC*, 23 March 2011).

Cambridge News, 24 February 2011

A cat has been shot dead with an **airgun** in **March**, Cambridgeshire. She had two pellets in her body, one in the abdomen and another in her back leg. She was not strong enough to survive the injuries and died at the vet's surgery.

Kent Online, 23 February 2011

A cat has been hit by an **airgun** pellet in an attack in **Gillingham**, Kent. He suffered damage to his spleen, bowel, pancreas and kidney and is in a serious condition.

BBC, 22 February 2011

Eight swans have been shot dead. Three were found in a field in **Wedmore**, Somerset, and the others nearby. One surviving bird was recovered and is being treated. X-rays showed that they had all been shot in the head with **airgun** pellets. A reward of £10,000 has been offered to find the person responsible. Five more dead swans have been found in the area though the cause of death was not reported (*Burnham-On-Sea.com*, 28 February 2011). Three men have been arrested on suspicion of criminal damage (*BBC*, 8 March 2011).

BBC, 18 February 2011

A female swan has been put down after it was found to have been shot at least three times. The bird from a countryside centre in **Benton**, Tyneside, was discovered by the RSPCA. She had been shot at least three times by separate **air weapons**.

BBC, 10 February 2011

A swan is recovering after being shot in the head with an **air rifle**. It was found in **Littlehampton**, West Sussex. The pellets have been removed.

BBC, 10 February 2011

A cat had to have its eye removed after being shot in the head four times. The incident occurred in **Newton**, Hampshire, in January 2011. **Airgun** pellets were found embedded in his head.

This is Local London, 5 February 2011

A campaigner has spoken out about **airgun** owners who use wild animals for target practice. Squirrels, foxes and swans have been shot in a series of incidents in the area around Leatherhead, Surrey. In a recent incident an injured squirrel was found in a street in **Dorking** with an air rifle pellet lodged in its back and had to be put down.

Echo, 26 January 2011

A kitten was shot with an **air rifle** at point-blank range in **Hockley**, Essex. She was left with serious injuries after a pellet travelled through her body and lodged in her colon.

Incidents involving Animals

Stratford-upon-Avon Herald, 21 January 2011

An **air rifle** pellet was removed from the back leg of a cat from **Stratford-upon-Avon**, Warwickshire. His owner has issued an appeal to anyone who knows any information about who shot her cat.

South Wales Echo, 21 January 2011

A cat is recovering after being shot in the face for the fourth time. After the latest attack he came back to his home in **Llanrumney**, Cardiff, bleeding and in agony. An **airgun** pellet had been fired at point-blank range and destroyed his left eye.

North Wales Weekly News, 20 January 2011

A cat has been shot with an **airgun** in **Llysfaen**, Conwy. He has had to endure several long operations in which his spleen and parts of his intestines were removed.

Cynon Valley Leader, 13 January 2011

A cat has been shot twice with an **air rifle** in Cefnpennar, Mid Glamorgan, and has had to have a leg amputated. His owners thought he had been hit by a car but X-rays revealed he had been shot.

Horncastle News, 12 January 2011

A cat from **Tattershall**, Lincolnshire, is recovering from live-saving surgery after surviving a third shooting in nine months. In the latest attack he was shot with an **air rifle** and suffered serious bowel injuries. A pellet had penetrated the bowel in several places, causing a lot of damage.

Bedford Today, 10 January 2011

A racing pigeon has been shot and killed by an **air rifle** pellet. The bird was found on a rooftop neighbouring the owner's property in **Lidlington**, Bedfordshire, after he heard a crackle from what is believed to be an air rifle. The pigeon had what appeared to be a pellet wound in its neck.

Sun, 6 January 2011

Arran Munro, 18, shot down seagulls and crows from a window in the centre of **Peebles** in July 2010. He has admitted recklessly discharging at **air rifle**.

Evening Courier, 6 January 2011

Seven geese and two ducks have been shot dead on the banks of the River Calder in **Todmorden**, West Yorkshire. Another goose was shot in the head but survived. It is believed they were shot with some kind of **air weapon**.