



## **FEBRUARY 2005 - SUMMARY**

- **Fatal shootings** - Five people were killed by guns in four incidents (Hockliffe in Bedfordshire, Pollok in Glasgow, Northolt in west London and Effingham in Surrey).
- **Shotguns** - According to national firearms statistics shotguns are involved in a relatively small proportion of firearms offences, so the number of incidents reported this month (and also in December 2004) should cause some concern. These included a double murder in Hockliffe, the shooting of teenage boy in Thornton Heath, a double shooting near the Blackwall Tunnel, the arrest of a drug dealer in Nottingham, an armed raid in Ipswich, an incident in which a gun was pointed at a boy by a car driver in Yate and another in which a drunk man was walking in the streets of St Asaph armed with a shotgun. Four men have been convicted following two shotgun shootings in 2004, one in Tottenham, which left a father of three paralysed, the other in Didcot in which a teenage boy was injured.
- **Armed raids, kidnap, muggings** - Victims were held at gunpoint during raids or muggings in Royal Oak (west London), Walthamstow, Lee (south east London), Whittlesey, Stratford-upon-Avon, Kettering, Sheffield, Glasgow, Rutherglen, Edinburgh, Gilmerton and Lon St Ffraid. There were two incidents in which people were forced into cars at gunpoint (Bolton, Stalybridge). The exact weapon used is not always known and police do not rule out the possibility that imitation weapons were involved in at least some of the incidents.
- **Clubs and pubs** - A number of shootings take place in the vicinity of clubs and pubs. This month there were three incidents in London: in South Croydon (in which a bouncer wrestled the weapon from the gunman's hand), near the Blackwall Tunnel and in the Old Kent Road. There was also a shooting in a Sheffield pub.
- **Shooting from vehicles** - Each month there are incidents in which either shots are fired from cars or drivers or passengers are seen to threaten members of the public with guns. In February there were incidents reported from Preston, Portway, Yate, Fareham and Gosport, and Bridlington. The M5 motorway had to be closed near Clevedon after an apparent firearms incident was reported to police.
- **Airgun injuries, sniping and vandalism** - There was a worrying number of incidents in which airguns were targeted at people, a number of which resulted in injury. Members of the public, including a number of young people, were hit by airgun pellets in Gloucester, Stockwell (the victim was a firefighter), London's South Bank, Portway (near Redditch), Fareham and Gosport, Greenhithe, Cambridge, Sheffield, Wythenshawe and

Gleadless Valley (Sheffield). Vandalism involving air weapons was reported from Cradley (windows), Thornaby (a phone box), Eastbourne (buses), Barnoldswick (a factory) and Huddersfield (a church). A man and a woman who, in separate incidents in Sparkhill and Urmston, had fired airguns towards people they thought responsible for vandalism were convicted and told that they had overstepped the line by using the guns. There were other court cases after previous incidents in Cleator Moor (three men were hit by their friend during a drunken target shooting session), Colne (a sniper firing at a cricket match) and Wednesbury (a youth shooting at school pupils).

- **Incidents involving imitation and BB guns** - No month goes by without police armed response teams being called out to incidents in which people, mostly youths, have been spotted with guns which turn out to be imitations. This month there were incidents in Reading and Northampton, and another incident involving a boy pointing a gun from a car in Bridlington. In Tantoble, County Durham, five men were arrested following a siege after being seen with an imitation automatic rifle. A woman was given a rehabilitation order after an incident in which she had brandished an imitation gun at police in Upper Norwood. Court cases highlighted the dangerous ways in which these guns have been used: in Cambridge by a man to threaten his father, in Maida Vale (London) during a robbery, and in Gorebridge (involving a blank-firing pistol) to threaten an ex-girlfriend. Two men are currently standing trial for the murder of a youth in Handsworth in which the victim received a fatal shot to the chest, the bullet being described as a ball-bearing one.
- **Injuries to Animals** - The four reported incidents, which included the horrific killing of a pet dog in its owners' back garden in Shrewsbury, do not reflect the extent of the misery inflicted by airguns on animals and their owners. The RSPCA has received reports of more than 1100 injuries to animals in England and Wales in the six months up to February. With stricter controls over the ownership and use of airguns, especially by young people, this toll could be reduced.
- **A dangerous legal shooting activity** - One report highlighted how legal shooting activities can indirectly put the lives of others in danger. The shooting of grey partridges close to the perimeter of Newcastle Airport was probably the reason for the birds striking a passenger aircraft which had to take emergency action.
- **Thefts** - Two thefts of guns were reported in Stokesley (shotguns) and Yarmouth (air guns and imitations guns). There is no doubt that these will have increased the pool of legal weapons that could end up being used in crime.

## FEBRUARY 2005 - INCIDENTS

### ENGLAND

*News & Star*, 27 February 2005

A young Royal Navy mechanic who shot and wounded three of his friends with an **air rifle** admitted three charges of wounding causing grievous bodily harm. He has been warned he could face prison. Christopher Hall had been drinking heavily with his friends before they did target shooting in his garden in **Cleator Moor**. He apparently shot at them after he discovered that his gun had been cracked.

*Marylebone, St John's Wood & Maida Vale Express*, 25 February 2005

A car driver was mugged at gunpoint by a gang of four men near **Royal Oak** underground station. The man and his female passenger were forced to hand over watches, mobile phones and wallets. The attackers made off by car.

*Waltham Forest Guardian*, 25 February 2005

A pensioner was gagged and held at gunpoint in his **Walthamstow** home by two men who posed as buyers for his car. The victim suffered cuts and bruises. His house and car keys were stolen.

*Pendle Today*, 25 February 2005

Vandals have caused £10,000 damage to a factory in **Barnoldswick**. Fifteen wire-reinforced windows were smashed using an **airgun** or catapult.

*PA News*, 25 February 2005

David Gaynor, 19, has been jailed for 25 years for the shooting a father of three in **Tottenham** in May 2004 ([see June 2004 incidents](#)). His victim is now paralysed after the back of his skull and part of his brain were blown apart by a shot from a sawn-off shotgun: He had been responding to damage to his car caused by another youth, Simeon Szybusz, and got into an argument with a group of youths over who was going to pay for the damage. Szybusz was also convicted of attempted murder and sentenced to 25 years in jail.

*Evening Chronicle (Newcastle)*, 25 February 2005

Thomas Masserick has appeared at **Newcastle** Magistrates Court accused of attacking a woman and her four-year-old daughter. Among the eight charges he faces are two of possessing an **airgun** while prohibited from doing so for five years.

*BBC*, 25 February 2005

Leo Bigus was jailed from five years after being caught with a sawn-off shotgun in his garden shed in **Nottingham**. Police had earlier found £2000 worth of drugs in his car.

**National Newspapers**, 24 February 2005

A 14-year-old boy, a man and a woman were being questioned by detectives following the murder of a woman and her adopted daughter at their home in **Hockliffe**, Bedfordshire. The victims had died from shotgun wounds.

**BBC**, 24 February 2005

A teenager was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after shots were fired from a car at a group of youths in **Preston**. No one was injured, but the police described the shooting as potentially very serious.

**Evening Mail (Birmingham)**, 23 February 2005

Two men are appearing at Birmingham Crown Court charged with the murder of a teenager in **Handsworth** in September 2004. The victim was beaten up by three men and fatally shot in the chest. The bullet was described as a **ball-bearing** one which had been fired from a range of about two metres and which passed through the organs in his chest and lodged against his spine.

**icSouth London**, 23 February 2005

A bouncer wrestled a gun from a man who held the loaded weapon to his head in an incident outside a pub in **South Croydon**. A man has been arrested and charged with possession of firearms with intent.

**Sheffield Today**, 22 February 2005

The owner of a bric-a-brac shop in **Sheffield** tackled a teenage raider who entered his shop and pointed a gun at his head. The gunman and his accomplice ran out of the shop.

**Huddersfield Daily Examiner**, 22 February 2005

Three shots were fired at a church in **Huddersfield** during an evening service. The shots, thought to be from a **high-powered airgun**, broke double-glazed windows.

**Evening Star (Ipswich)**, 22 February 2005

A robber demanded cash as he held staff at gunpoint at a service station in **Ipswich**. He made off with the contents of one till. The man was believed to have been armed with a shotgun.

**BBC**, 22 February 2005

A man has died in hospital after being repeatedly shot at in a street in **Northolt**, west London. A second man was found at a nearby petrol station suffering from a gunshot wound.

**BBC**, 22 February 2005

Three people suffered injuries after being shot at with **airgun** pellets in **Gloucester**. One man needed treatment in hospital for wounds to his knee and elbow, another was shot in the leg and medical staff have been unable to remove the pellet.

*Journal (Newcastle)*, 21 February 2005

A man reported to have been armed with a gun at **South Tyneside District Hospital** was arrested for a public order offence. Police ended the situation without anyone getting hurt.

*BBC*, 21 February 2005

A woman cycling along the A435 at **Portway** near Redditch was fired at from a passing car and injured by a **pellet**. She heard a cracking sound as she and a friend were overtaken by a silver coloured Peugeot.

*Mirror*, 21 February 2005

A boy of 13 was recovering in hospital after being shot in the street with a shotgun as he queued with friends to get into a party in **Thornton Heath**, south London. Police say the victim was lucky not to have suffered more serious injury.

*icCoventry*, 21 February 2005

A couple were both shot in the legs at their home in **Foleshill**. Police say the shooting could have arisen from a domestic dispute and are trying to find the couple's son.

*Wales on Sunday*, 20 February 2005

Three Welshmen were arrested between **Hullavington** and **Sherston** in Wiltshire on suspicion of hunting with dogs. A police spokesman said they are also being investigated as to possible firearms offences relating to a modified **air rifle** as well as other possible offensive weapons charges.

*BBC*, 18 February 2005

Otis Matthews was jailed for life for his part in the torture and murder of a drug smuggler at a farm in **Tabley**, near Knutsford. The victim was attacked by a masked gang armed with a handgun, machete, industrial staple gun, canes and metal bars. Two other men had been convicted and jailed in August 2004.

*BBC*, 18 February 2005

Five men have been arrested on firearms charges after a seven-hour armed police operation at **Tantoble**, near Stanley, in County Durham. Two of the men had been seen with what looked like automatic rifles. An **imitation automatic rifle** was recovered.

*Pendle Today*, 18 February 2005

Roger Baldwin discharged an **air pistol** through his window, which overlooked **Colne** cricket ground, during a match. A pellet hit the ground near to the bowler, who had started his run up. He has been given three years' detention.

*PA News*, 17 February 2005

Simon Roberts leant out of a car in which he was a passenger and fired at close range at a boy on a bicycle with a .410 double-barrelled shotgun. The boy was hit in the buttocks and back with hundreds of pellets. Roberts had pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, wounding with intent and possession of a shotgun without a certificate in October 2004. The driver, David Johnson, initially denied the charges but changed his plea during the trial (*BBC*, 22 February 2005). The incident, which took place in **Didcot** ([see August 2004 incidents](#)), apparently followed a disagreement over local girls.

*icSurrey*, 17 February 2005

Rodney Doll was jailed for four years after a Smith & Wesson revolver and ammunition were found at his home in **Ashted**. He pleaded guilty to unlawful possession of a firearm and unlawful possession of ammunition. Police said they assumed his sole purpose for him possessing the gun was so that it could be used to commit crime.

*Cambridge News*, 17 February 2005

A man who subjected his father to an ordeal with a knife and an **imitation gun** has been jailed for 21 months. Francis Mottershead, who had been jailed in the past for firearms crime, was drinking at the time of the incident which took place at his parents' **Cambridge** home.

*BBC*, 17 February 2005

A 15-year-old boy was arrested after an allegation that a gun was aimed at a traffic warden in **Bridlington** from the back of a moving car. A **ball-bearing gun** was recovered.

*BBC*, 17 February 2005

An armed response unit was called to the car park of a **Northampton** pub after a group of youths, one brandishing a handgun, was reported there. A **toy gun** was seized.

*BBC*, 17 February 2005

A woman escaped unharmed after being bundled into a car at gunpoint in **Bolton**. She managed to escape in **Ainsworth**, Bury, after a 20 minutes drive. Police say they are unsure whether the gun was real or an **imitation weapon**.

*Willesden & Brent Times*, 16 February 2005

A police dog-handler was shot at when he alarmed a group of youths carrying iron bars and baseball bats at **Willesden Junction** station. The shots were fired as the youths fled.

*icSouth London*, 16 February 2005

Myra Grant threatened to shoot a toddler at a drive-through McDonald's in **Thornton Heath** whilst attempting, with another man, to rob car passengers in September 2004. A jury convicted him of robbery.

*Greenwich Mercury*, 16 February 2005

Police are investigating a shooting in which two men were shot with a shotgun after getting into an argument at a nightclub near the **Blackwall Tunnel**.

*Greenwich Mercury*, 16 February 2005

A gun was fired during an assault on a 19-year-old woman as she was walking along a street in **Lee**. The assailant got out of a car and attacked the woman in front of friends. The victim was treated for minor cuts and bruises.

*Evening Gazette (Middlesbrough)*, 16 February 2005

Nathan Foster, 14, was banned from the Beechwood estate in **Middlesbrough** with an extensive Anti-Social Behaviour Order after 60 complaints of anti-social behaviour including incidents with **airguns**. The conditions of the ASBO prohibit ownership of firearms or replica firearms.

*BBC*, 16 February 2005

Rafik Alleyne has been jailed for life after shooting dead a customer in a hairdressers in **West Norwood**, south London, in April 2003. He will serve a minimum of 22 years.

*BBC*, 16 February 2005

Police believe that a single-barrelled shotgun was pointed at a 12-year-old boy as he was walking along a street in **Yate**. The driver of a car had stopped to ask for directions before he appeared to point a gun at the boy.

*South London Press*, 15 February 2005

Two men were shot in the legs when a gunman opened fire on a crowded dance floor in a nightspot on the **Old Kent Road**. Several shots were fired.

*South London Press*, 15 February 2005

Steven Chapman has received a six-month jail sentence after the police found a gun and bullets at his **Lambeth** home. The judge apparently ignored sentencing guidelines which call for a minimum five-year jail sentence for firearms offences because of "exceptional circumstances".

*Peterborough Today*, 15 February 2005

A gunman fled from a store in **Whittlesey** after being confronted by the manageress. He had pointed a handgun in the face of a young woman working on the tills.

*Cambridge News*, 15 February 2005

At least five people have been hit by **airgun** pellets in a series of shooting incidents in the Barton Road area of **Cambridge**.

*BBC*, 15 February 2005

A shooting party, close to the northern boundary of **Newcastle Airport**, may have driven grey partridges towards the airfield. In December 2004 a passenger plane with 90 people on board had to take emergency action after being struck by the birds. The airport operator has since written to the farmer of the adjacent land requesting that shooting activities are not carried out in the vicinity of the airfield.

*PA News*, 14 February 2005

A man was arrested after reports of a firearm incident on the M5 near **Clevedon**. The motorway was closed for 90 minutes.

*Eastern Daily Press*, 12 February 2005

Thieves have stolen a number of weapons from a unit in **Yarmouth** Market Place. The items taken included two **paintball guns**, seven **replica gas-powered guns**, a **ball-bearing gun** and two **air pistols**. Norfolk Police warned that "if someone is caught in possession with a weapon such as this, it will be dealt with as a real firearm."

*Highbury & Islington Express*, 11 February 2005

Ian Rawlings was jailed for 12 years following the shooting of a security guard with an 8 mm pistol during a hold up at a bank in **Palmer's Green** in October 2004 ([see Incidents](#)). An off-duty policeman, Nick Pamboris, tackled Rawlings and wrestled him to the ground. The judge paid tribute to his bravery. Rawlings claimed that he thought the gun was a **starting pistol** and did not fire real bullets.

*BBC*, 11 February 2005

Police, urging South Yorkshire residents to hand in weapons during a month-long amnesty, reported shooting incidents which resulted in two youngsters being hurt with **ball-bearing guns**. A seven-year-old boy was shot in his ear and an 11-year-old girl playing with her dog in her garden was shot at by youths. Both incidents were in Gresley Road, **Sheffield**.

*Evening Mail (Birmingham)*, 10 February 2005

Roger Murray was given a 240-hour community punishment order after pleading guilty to possessing a firearm with intent. He had armed himself with an **air rifle** with the intention of scaring away hooligans near his home in **Sparkhill**.

*BBC*, 9 February 2005

Two men burst into a pub in **Sheffield** and fired shots towards the bar. One man was taken to hospital where his condition was described as stable.

*icSouth London*, 9 February 2005

Glynis Colquhoun was shot with a police stun gun after appearing at her front door in **Upper Norwood** with a **replica Colt 45**. She was given an 18-month community rehabilitation order. Colquhoun, who is an amateur Wild West film-maker, also picked up a sword as the police closed in.

*Evening Chronicle (Newcastle)*, 8 February 2005

Thomas Anderson, who hired a hitman to assassinate a rival, was accidentally shot in the groin during the attempt to kill the man in **Easington**. He has been jailed for 10 years for conspiracy to murder. His nephew William "Ike" Anderson admitted two charges of possessing an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear and was also found guilty of conspiracy to murder. He, his father (also found guilty of conspiracy to murder) and the hired gunman, Arthur Pattinson were all jailed for 14 years.

*Eastbourne Today*, 8 February 2005

Eastbourne Buses will not reinstate evening bus services to the **Shinewater** estate which were suspended because of attacks on buses, including one in which a teenager shot at a window with an **air rifle**.

*BBC*, 7 February 2005

Linda Walker was found guilty of firing a **Walther gas-powered pellet pistol** up to six times at a gang of youths whom she believed to be responsible for a campaign of vandalism at her home in **Urmston**, Greater Manchester. She had denied affray and possession of a firearm with intent to cause unlawful harm, claiming self defence. There was no direct evidence to link the youths to the incident which resulted in her firing the gun. A police spokesman said that she had "overstepped the line and attacked a group in an unprovoked disproportionate manner".

*BBC*, 7 February 2005

A man was fatally shot in the chest on the doorstep of a house in **Effingham**, Surrey.

*Guardian*, 5 February 2005

A man from **Towcester** was jailed for two years for buying stun guns and CS gas canisters from a **website**. After 2 months the sentence was reduced to 1 year on appeal.

*BBC*, 5 February 2005

A firefighter was shot at with an **air rifle** whilst tackling a blaze in **Stockwell**, south London. He was hit close to the collarbone but escaped serious injury. A gang of six youths was being sought.

*Marylebone, St John's Wood and Maida Vale Express*, 4 February 2005

Daniel Pragolia and Gerald Dawson burst into a family home in **Maida Vale** wielding a large kitchen knife and a **ball-bearing gun**. A family were forced upstairs and tied up with their clothes. The gun was held to their victims' heads and the men threatened to kill them if money and valuables were not handed over. The men have been convicted and sentenced to 10 years and 7 years respectively.

*Stratford-upon-Avon Herald*, 4 February 2005

A man armed with a gun threatened staff at a **Stratford** betting shop before grabbing cash. No shots were fired.

*Express & Star*, 4 February 2005

Arron Ellis, 16, twice opened fire with an **air rifle** on pupils at Wodensborough Technology College in **Wednesbury**. He shot and injured five children on a playing field in one attack in November 2004 and hit and injured a boy in December 2004. He admitted two charges of common assault and asked for four identical offences to be taken into consideration.

*Express & Star*, 4 February 2005

Gangs firing **ball-bearing guns** are causing chaos in **Cradley**. The gangs are also dealing drugs and carrying out wrecking sprees. A ball-bearing was shot through a resident's window near the Hightown area.

*Manchester News*, 4 February 2005

A **Wythenshawe** schoolboy was shot in the face with an **airgun** in an unprovoked attack as he waited for the bus home. The victim has blurred vision in the injured eye.

*BBC*, 4 February 2005

A raider who claimed he was armed with a gun fled empty-handed from a building society office in **Kettering**.

*icBerkshire*, 3 February 2005

A schoolboy of a trip to the theatre in London was hit in the leg with an **airgun** pellet. The incident took place during the interval when the pupils and staff were outside on the **South Bank**. The pellet was removed in hospital the next day.

*Reading Evening Post*, 3 February 2005

Armed police arrested a group of teenagers on suspicion of carrying an **imitation firearm** after they were seen pointing a gun at each other at **Reading** station. They were found to be filmmakers working on a school project. Commuters had told police that somebody in a balaclava had pulled a gun on a boy. All four pupils were cautioned and issued with a formal reprimand.

*Manchester News*, 1 February 2005

Police marksmen were involved in a car chase across Greater Manchester after a man was shot and bundled into the back of a Range Rover. Officers were first called to a house near **Stalybridge**. The vehicle crashed as it pulled off the M56, and three men were arrested following a chase in which shots may have been fired.

*Sheffield Today*, 1 February 2005

A mother was terrified when she was hit in the face by a youth firing a **pellet gun** whilst making a phone call in **Gleadless Valley**. A gang of around 20 youths had been firing paint bombs at the phone booth before she was shot at.

*BBC*, 1 February 2005

In the past two months five people in **Fareham** and **Gosport** have been hurt by being hit by **plastic ball bearings** fired from a moving car. Police believe the attacks are connected and have been carried out by a person or group in a small silver hatchback.

*BBC*, 1 February 2005

Four shotguns were stolen from the cab of a pick-up truck parked outside a pub in Chop Gate, near **Stokesley**, North Yorkshire.

*BBC*, 1 February 2005

A 68-year-old man was shot in the chest with an **airgun** as he walked past three youths in an alley in **Greenhithe**, Kent. He was treated in hospital for a cut but doctors told him he could have died had the pellet hit his heart or lungs (*This is Local London*, 9 February 2005).

*icBerkshire*, 1 February 2005

Daniel Holland pleaded guilty to a violent attack in **Wokingham** and eight other robberies in West London and Buckinghamshire. During the attack on a Wokingham bookmakers it is thought he may have had a gun.

---

## SCOTLAND

*Evening Times*, 28 February 2005

An armed robber stole hundreds of pounds from a petrol station in Woodlands Road, **Glasgow**. He threatened staff with a weapon thought to be a gun.

*icWest Lothian*, 18 February 2005

Two men, one armed with a knife and the other with what appeared to be a gun, robbed a bookmakers in **Rutherglen** making off with a four-figure sum.

*BBC*, 18 February 2005

A man who went into an **Edinburgh** bank and demanded cash after claiming to be armed with a handgun may also have been responsible for a robbery at a nearby building society earlier in the month (*BBC*, 7 February 2005). The bank teller activated a security screen and the man "calmly" walked out of the branch.

*Edinburgh Evening News*, 11 February 2005

Robert Amos fired a gun after threatening his ex-girlfriend at a house in **Gorebridge** in October 2004. The gun was a **blank-firing pistol**. Amos, who had a history of mental health problems, was jailed for 30 months.

*Herald*, 8 February 2005

A man was shot dead on his doorstep in **Pollok**, Glasgow. The victim, who had served a jail sentence for manslaughter, was shot three times in an attack that bore all the hallmarks of a gangland shooting.

*BBC*, 7 February 2005

Two armed robberies took place in **Edinburgh**. In one in the city's Hanover Street a man walked into a building society branch and threatened staff with a handgun. In the other incident in **Gilmerton** a man threatened an employee at a bookmakers with a gun. Thousands of pounds were stolen in both robberies.

---

## WALES

*Daily Post*, 25 February 2005

Marcus Duvall, who was found walking through **St Asaph** with a shotgun and live cartridges, has been jailed for three years. He had threatened to put a bullet through the head of one man. He was drunk at the time of the incident.

*Daily Post*, 21 February 2005

An armed robber held a gun to the head of a shop assistant in a grocery store in **Lon St Ffraid**, Trearddur Bay, Anglesey. He let off a single shot with his handgun when he entered the shop before threatening to kill the woman as he demanded cash.

*Daily Post*, 17 February 2005

Armed police surrounded a house in **Llandudno Junction** as a man armed with a gun threatened to shoot himself. The man, believed to have mental health problems, was arrested.

---

## INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

**The RSPCA has received reports of more than 1,100 airgun-related injuries to animals in England and Wales in the last six months (*Reading Evening Post*, 11 February)**

*Evening Gazette (Middlesbrough)*, 28 February 2005

A cat needed emergency treatment after being hit by an **airgun** attacker in **Thornaby**. The incident followed a recent attack on a local phone box. The report included descriptions of other recent airgun attacks in the Teeside area (**Darlington** and **Redcar**) in which young people had been the victims.

*Buchan Observer*, 24 February 2005

A cat was lucky to survive after being injured by a shot from a **pellet gun** in **Mintlaw**. The cat's owner believes he must have been shot from a considerable distance.

*Reading Evening Post*, 11 February 2005

Rupert, a tabby cat, whose owner lives in **Whitley**, was shot in the leg with an **airgun**. He suffered a deep cut and bruising and is now too scared to leave the house.

*Shropshire Star*, 7 February 2005

A family's pet dog was shot and killed as it played in the back garden of their home in **Shrewsbury**. It was shot in the heart with an **airgun** pellet.