



# Sedgley's Diamond 60

Sixty years, sixty people, sixty stories about village life since 1952.

2002

## The Dudley Earthquake

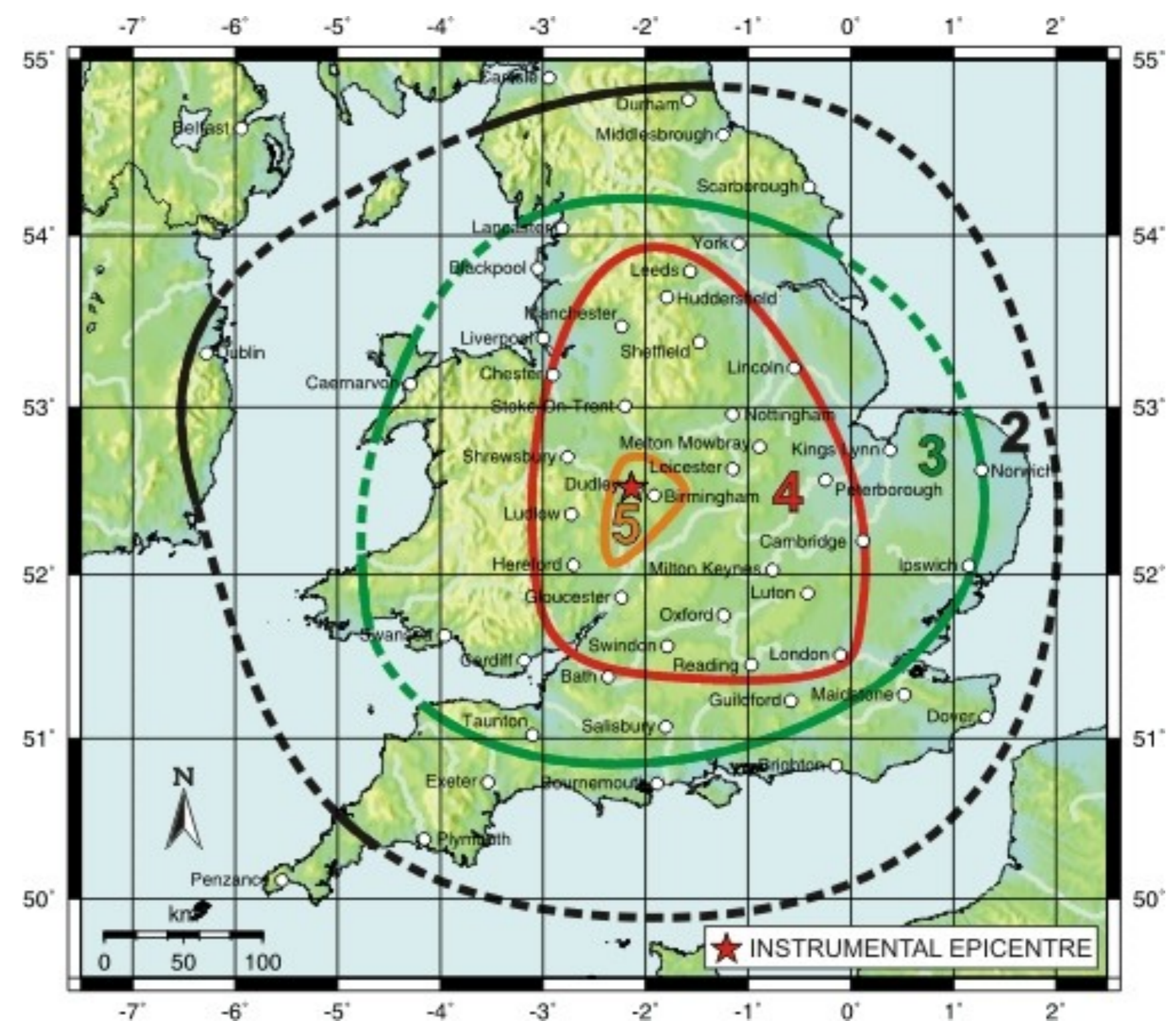
by Joanne Sweetland

On 23rd September 2002 at about 1am I was woken up by a strange rumbling noise. I thought there was something going on with our hot water system, until I realised it was coming from the ground up. It literally shook the bed and woke me, but my husband slept right through it! It went on for about 15-20 seconds.

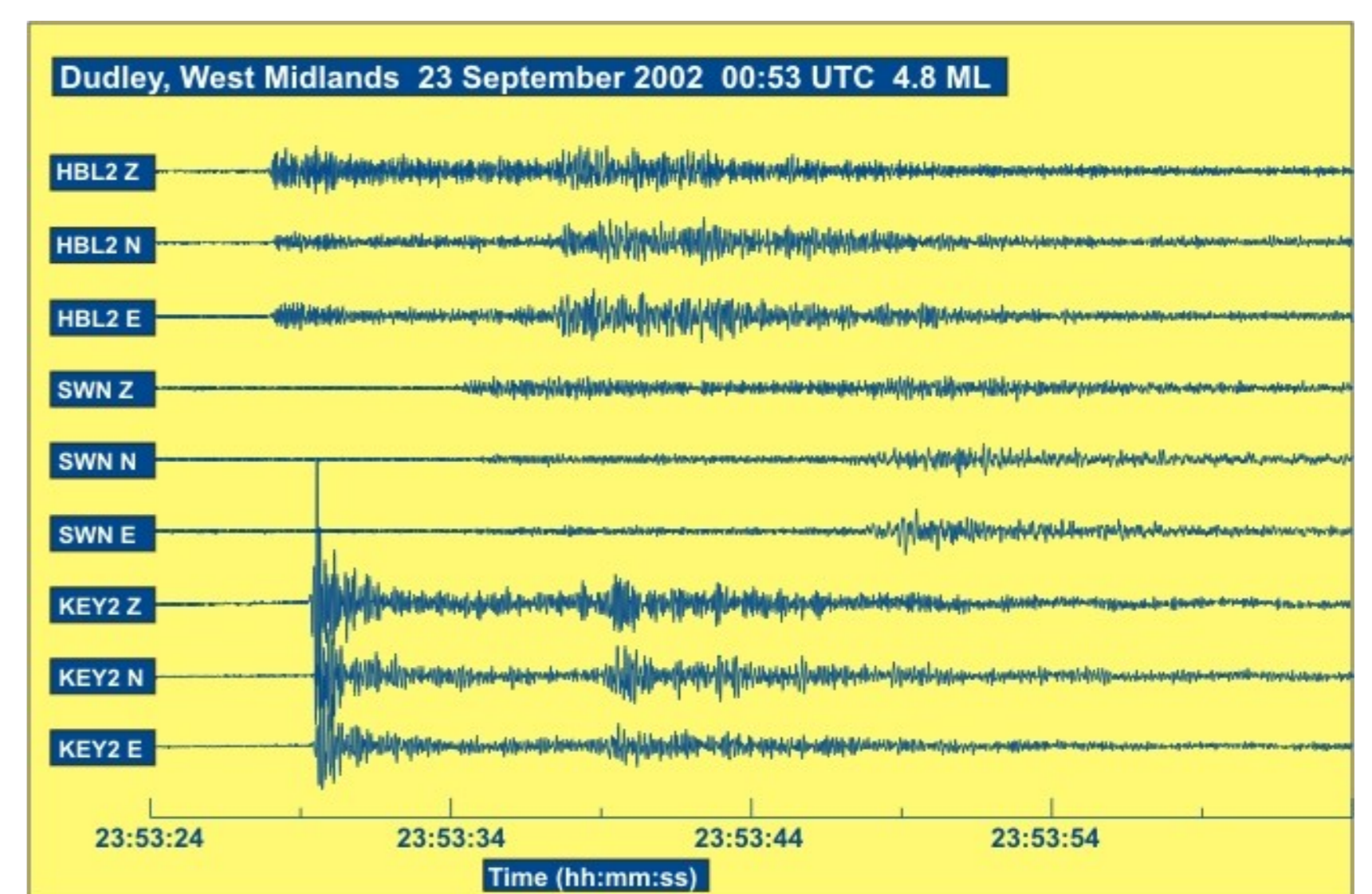
I looked outside and people had come out of their houses. Lights came on and people went outside and were asking one another: "What the hell was that?" Everyone was looking at the outside of their houses to see what damage there'd been. Nobody in the street sustained any: it was more the shock of being woken, and not knowing what had happened. It was a bit like recently when fighter planes went over us on two consecutive days practising defences against potential terrorist threats at the Olympics. People got worried then too.

When the earthquake happened, we were living in Beech Close off Beacon Rise near the Beacon pub. The following morning I went off to work and left a note for my husband saying: "I always said you'd sleep through anything – you've just slept through an earthquake." He phoned me at work and thought I was joking, but then it came on the TV news. The tremor was felt as far afield as Truro and Carlisle - the epicentre was the junction between Himley Road and High Arcal Road by Himley Park. There was a small aftershock at 4.32am. Apparently 600 people dialled 999 and 6,000 rang the main police switchboard to find out why their wardrobes were shaking.

*The other notable event I'd like to mention was in 2000 when I turned 30 and ran the Race for Life in aid of Cancer Research UK.*



The earthquake was felt throughout England.



The tremor registered 5.0 on the Richter scale.



It caused minor damage to buildings.