

Highworth Earthquake 1727

From Highworth, Wilts, That on the 19th instant, about 5 in the Morning, a violent Shock was felt there and at Hannington and several other neighbouring places, which lasted about 2 or 3 Minutes; the Houses shook very much and the People were so toss'd in their Beds that several of them ran out into the Streets, in a great Fright thinking their Houses were falling about their Ears; the wind had been strong at North East ever since the Sunday morning before and the Atmosphere, together with the Sun and Moon, from that time had made a very different Appearance from what they had used to do, particularly the Moon for a Night or two before appeared as red as Blood and then was immediately concealed behind a very thick, dark Cloud, as if in a total Eclipse; and the evening before the Shock was felt, about 7 a'clock, the Sun, which had appeared all that Day very different from what is used to do, seemed to have a tremulous Motion and quivered up and down for some time.

(Gloucester Journal, Tuesday 01 August 1727)