

WOLSTON INTERPRETATION PANEL UNVEILED BY FRED SHOTTON'S DAUGHTER

Ian Fenwick

A pleasant early Spring day was the setting for the unveiling of the Group's latest interpretation panel on Ice Age Warwickshire. The venue was the village green in Wolston - right in the heart of the country which Prof. Fred Shotton came to know so well during his ground-breaking work on the British Pleistocene during the '50s and '60s.

The panel has been designed by Jeff Jones of The Drawing Room in Leamington and depicts 'Heidelberg Man' hunting his prey along the banks of the Bytham River. More detail is provided on the nature of some of the evidence - pollen, mammal remains and the fine artefacts found at Waverley Wood and Brandon. After recounting the story of the advance of the main Anglian ice sheet, the account concludes by highlighting the massive diversion of drainage caused by the ice.

We were delighted to have as our guests many members of Fred Shotton's immediate family and the panel was unveiled by his daughter, Mrs Ann Black.



Mrs Ann Black speaking after unveiling the Wolston Panel

Also, out in force were members of Wolston Parish Council, as well as representation from Natural England through whom the panel has been funded.

The media took quite an interest in the event and good coverage was obtained in the Coventry Evening Telegraph and on BBC Radio Coventry & Warwickshire, where Ian Fenwick gave an interview on the Liz Kershaw Breakfast Show!

Did you know that Wolston is an important place because of its connection with the Ice Age in the Midlands?

Wolston village lends its name to the internationally recognised Wolstonian sequence of deposits established by local geologist Professor Fred Shotton of Birmingham University. During the Second World War he was a Major in the Royal Engineers and advised Eisenhower on beach conditions to be expected during the D-Day landings. But he also spent much time here in the Wolston area studying the ice age deposits.



Around half a million years ago, southern and eastern Warwickshire were occupied by a broad river valley. The river, known as the Bytham River, was large and powerful and laid down vast deposits of sand and gravel. These sediments enable geologists and archaeologists to understand our ancient environment.



Fraxinus
Castanea



Urtica



Equus



Bos



Avifauna



Wolstonian



Meles



The Wolston Interpretation Panel