



Royal
Astronomical
Society

**RAS Honorary Fellowship (G)
Rob and Cathryn Wilcock**

On the evening of February 28th 2021, a meteorite landed on the driveway of the Wilcock's house in Winchcombe, Gloucestershire. Not only was this the first recovered meteorite from the UK in 30 years, but it is also the UK's first carbonaceous chondrite. The Wilcock family contacted scientists from the UK Fireball Alliance (UKFALL) the next morning to report the impact of the meteorite on their property and recovered fragments, making it also the quickest collected carbonaceous chondrite ever. This is significant as these types of meteorites quickly alter and degrade if they are not carefully and rapidly collected and curated. Rob and Cathryn Wilcock provided great support to the researchers from UKFALL who visited Winchcombe and vicinity to hunt for fragments and also in publicising the official recovery efforts in the local area.

Meteorites are highly collectible objects and because of its pristine nature, its unusual type and the story associated with its landing, the Winchcombe meteorite has become a meteorite of legend and a highly desirable specimen for both public and private collections. Rob and Cathryn Wilcock were always firmly of the opinion that they should donate their meteorite to the Natural History Museum, to be used for scientific research and for outreach by the UK and international scientific community. Rob and Cathryn Wilcock have also led efforts in the local community involving schools and other groups in planetary science education and outreach.

For these reasons the Rob and Cathryn Wilcock are awarded the Honorary Fellowships of the Royal Astronomical Society.