

## **LOCAL FAMILY SPONSOR NEW BENCH ON LOCK ISLAND**

A new bench was recently installed at Lock Island, overlooking the Kennet & Avon canal in memory of Brian Canning (1938 -2016). His wife had the idea of sponsoring a bench for Brian after seeing in the local press that another family had the same idea earlier in the year in Victoria Park.

Mr Canning's wife of 51years, Mrs Joan Canning, is thrilled with the bench saying "My husband and I used to walk along the canal towpath every day into Town. His earlier life was spent around the canal, often skipping school to play around his beloved river! In the last 20 years we lived near to the canal and enjoyed walking into town, watching the wildlife. Brian could tell a bird by their calls."

Mr Canning was a true Newburian, attending Park House, Shaw House and St Nicolas Schools, then serving with the RAF for two years. Afterwards he worked as a self-employed decorator up until two years ago.

The family hope that the bench will be enjoyed by lots of people in the future, saying that Mr Canning would have been very pleased with the idea of having the bench overlooking the lock for everyone to enjoy.

Cllr Dave Goff, Leader of the Council said, "Newbury Town Council would like to thank Mrs Canning for her sponsorship and we would welcome offers of sponsorship for benches in other areas that we look after and maintain. If anyone is interested in sponsoring a bench they should contact the Town Council's Community Services Team on 01635 35486 or [towncouncil@newbury.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@newbury.gov.uk) .

Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury, RG14 5AA

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## PRESS RELEASE

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END

Attached photograph, from left to right: Mr Canning's sister, Carol Holley and his wife, Joan Canning.

### CONTACTS:

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