



**Dr John Desmond Huntley;** was born in Sculcoates, East Yorkshire on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1921. John was the son of Arthur Geoffrey Huntley (1897-1980) and Audrey Beatrice Huntley, nee Sykes (1896-1980). Arthur and Audrey married in Sculcoates in the September quarter of 1920.

John had a twin brother Aubrey Martin Huntley (b. 1<sup>st</sup> October 1921). The 1939 Register (taken on the eve of WWII) showed John living at West Acre Woodland Way, Kingswood and Banstead in Surrey with his mother Audrey and his occupation was listed as a medical student. John began medicine training at Guy's Hospital, London and then entered into the practice on the Isle of Flotta, Orkney.

Aubrey's brother also entered medicine, training at Guy's Hospital, London. Aubrey went into practice at Naracoorte, South Australia.

Both John and Aubrey served in The Royal Army Medical Corps (R.A.M.C.) with both becoming Captains in the Reserves. They served 5 years in the army during WW2; this was then extended by another year because of Suez. A supplement in the London Gazette dated 28<sup>th</sup> February 1947 show him serving in the army medical corps as John Desmond Huntley, M.B. (375415)

Upon answering a newspaper advertisement for young professionals to come to work in Harlow New Town, he joined Doctor Taylor in 1952 to develop the novel concept of the Primary Care Team and was soon joined by Doctor Bracewell to establish what is thought to be one of the very first health centres in the UK at Haygarth House Harlow (120 – 121 The Chantry). The fore runner of Nuffield House opened in 1955/6. John went on to serve the community of Harlow for a further 31 years.



As one of the original club sponsors who funded the purchase of Rams Gorse from the Development Corporation, John was instrumental in the development of the club. It was not commonly known until some years later that he was one of the main benefactors to the club. Whilst John never played rugby, he was a very keen supporter of the game and had a clear vision of the benefits it would bring to Harlow. John Huntley held the post of Club President from 1962 – 1981.

John set up direct debit payments to the club over many years and held many fund-raising events at Hill House Farm in School Lane, Harlow where he lived.

Following a career in general practice he honed his skills as a stone mason and was involved in the restoration works at Salisbury Cathedral spire. He retired to Orkney before moving to Orsett and he currently resides in Cambridge at the age of 96. John's brother, Aubrey, took up general practice in Australia. Both siblings have made immense contributions to the communities they lived in throughout their lives.

