

# Dr John White 11 April 1934 - 19 December 2000

**D**r John White died suddenly on 19th December 2000. Born at Mortlake in 1934, he had a lifelong love of the sea. He joined Mortlake Sea Scouts, which was run by his father, and later competed at Cowes regatta for many years with friends and family.

He was educated at The City of London School and St Thomas' Medical School where he played rugby in the front row of the scrum and enjoyed water polo. There he took a BSc and won two scholarships. His gregarious nature led to his flat becoming the focal point for the Medical School's social activities. He trained in general medicine at Oxford, Scarborough, Reading and finally Southampton, where he developed an interest in Dermatology. During his training he spent eighteen months at the Scripts Clinic, San Diego, completing an MD on methotrexate. He was a senior registrar at St John's and was appointed at Southampton in 1972.

While at Southampton, he was President of the Southampton Medical Society, established one of the first pigmented lesion clinics, was President of the Dowling Club visiting China, established the Solent Skin Society and was one of the first people to recognise Lyme Disease in the United Kingdom.

In addition to his medical work, he was actively involved in Romsey where he lived. In 1974 he was the first Chairman of the Romsey Conservation Society and between 1983 and 1991 a Town Councillor. Within Romsey, John will be best remembered as Chairman of the Romsey Hospital Appeal, a project that occupied the last three years of his life and raised £836,000. Fundraising events included the "Pull a Virgin" project, dragging one of Virgin's jumbo jets 100 metres. At the time of his death he was planning the world's largest "ring of roses" with 1,500 children.



John White

John was also a devoted family man and is survived by his wife Grace, son Tom and grandchildren Richard, Lucy and Sam.

**Dr Geoffrey Fairris**

Winchester