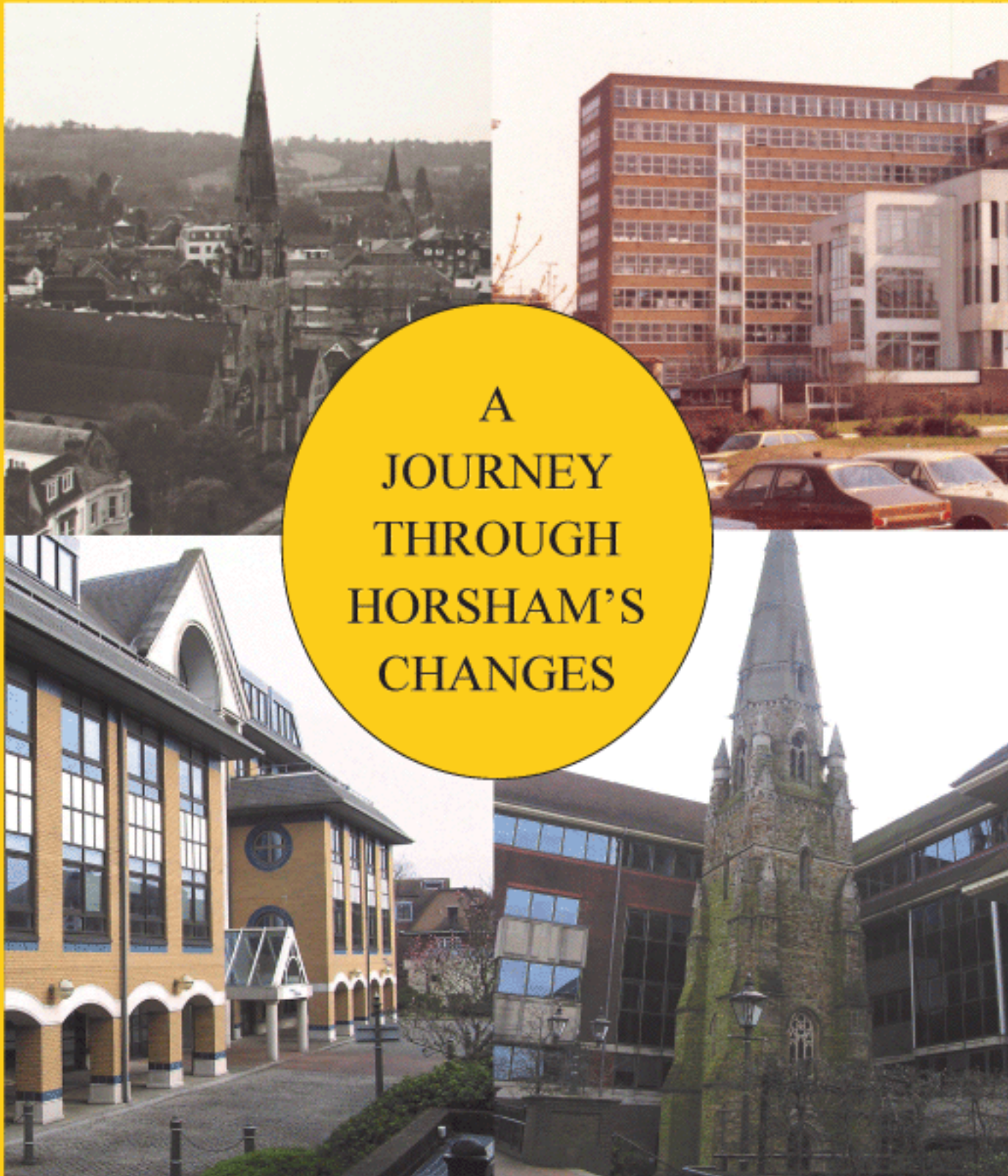


John Buchanan & Annabelle Hughes



A  
JOURNEY  
THROUGH  
HORSHAM'S  
CHANGES

The Horsham Society

## JOHN BUCHANAN

John was born in Dumfries, Scotland, in 1925 and his parents moved to Southwater, near Horsham, in 1927. He went to school in Southwater and then to Collyer's, joining the West Sussex County Times as a junior reporter in 1941.

In 1943 he was "called-up" to join the Army and was posted to India. As a Staff Captain, he was involved in the departure of British troops from India in 1947. On return to England he rejoined the County Times in 1948. It was at this time that he met Margaret, who was to become his wife.

After a period on the Bristol Evening Post as a sub-editor, John joined the Daily Express in Fleet Street in 1951. He had various key posts with the Daily Sketch, the Sunday Express and the Northern Daily Express in Manchester before returning to London in 1963 as Features Editor of the Sunday Express. In 1979 John was appointed Managing Editor of the Sunday Express; however he was forced to retire in 1984 because of increasing ill-health.

During his time in London he never lost interest in events in Horsham and returned there to live. In 1985 he was invited to write a monthly column for the County Times, under the name of "Peter Buchan" on any subject he chose and "with no strings attached", something he called "any journalist's dream". In 1987 he took over from Arthur Northcott as editor of the Horsham Society *Newsletter* and did much to improve co-operation between the Society and the District Council.

John had a great affection for Horsham and, having recorded the events between 1984 and 2000, said that he was proud to have been involved in such an exciting, sometimes anxious, but vital period, in the history of the town.

John sadly died of cancer in the year 2000 and the publication of this work is a fitting tribute to Horsham's former journalist.

## ANNABELLE HUGHES

Annabelle was born in Penang at the beginning of the Second World War and she and her mother were refugees in Australia for the duration. She was educated privately in Malaysia after the war and first went to school at the age of ten in South London.

After teacher training in Salisbury, her early married years were spent in Yorkshire and Aldershot, during which time she had various part-time teaching posts while raising three children. Before 1970, when she moved to Horsham with her family, Annabelle had never lived in one place for more than seven years, and this explains her attachment to the town where she has lived ever since.

Her fourth child was born in Horsham in 1972 and, eighteen months, later she began several years of part-time study that would culminate in a doctorate from Sussex University in 1989. Her thesis was based on a social and economic study of historic timber-framed buildings in Horsham and its market catchment area.

Annabelle became involved with the Horsham Society in the 1970s and was successively Newsletter Editor, Secretary and Chairman, the latter during the time that Horsham was being dragged into the modern world. Meanwhile, following her husband's death in 1980, Annabelle's career in work on historic buildings had been developing and still continues.