

This is a bit of a different type of research. I like to say I look at all things in the world of research. Some in the news, some not, but all are looking into things in more depth.

So, once again, a random bit to look at. I'm looking at a building. Fantastic, I hear you yell, a building. Wow, does it have a roof? Well, yes it does, but let's not get ahead of ourselves here.

I'm looking at the building, when it was built, who by and for who. And then looking at similar ones, to see a trend. Yep, back to my favourite area, spotting trends in stuff (e.g. Pay Gap).

So, let's look at where this is located. It's in a place called Bingham, which is in Nottingham. I'll link in Wikipedia as normal, but only as a starting block, as you all know I'm not a great fan of a site any Tom, Dick or Harry can edit, and people swear by the site as 100% true. Anyway, I digress, let's look at it:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bingham,_Nottinghamshire

And there on the right is a picture of the building, and here for ease of seeing:



Doesn't look bad, does it, but what actually is it? Well, according to Wiki, it's a Butter cross. In case you have no idea what that is, here (not again) is Wiki:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buttercross>

"A buttercross, also known as butter cross, is a type of market cross associated with English market towns and dating from medieval times. Its name originates from the fact that they were located at the market place, where people from neighbouring villages would gather to buy locally produced

butter, milk and eggs. The fresh produce was laid out and displayed on the circular stepped bases of the cross.

Their design varies from place to place, but they are often covered by some type of roof to offer shelter, although the roofs were mostly added at a much later date than the original cross they cover.”

So, it dates from medieval times. Now, the building I’m looking at was built a lot later than that:

<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/Brown1896/bingham.htm>

In the link above, there is a picture with the Butter Cross, erected 1861. Not exactly medieval times. But what about that cross that it (the roof) is supposed to be covering? What does this look like, and why a cross?

As usual, I’m going to take a slight tangent, and delve into the origins. So, this is like a history, architecture, folklore type of research. Something new to me, but why not do something out of my comfort zone ☺

So, the Butter Cross is a type of Market Cross, Cross being the key work here. So, the Market is just that, it’s where the local market was, and butter is where butter or dairy was sold. The cross was the structure to mark the location. But as you can probably tell, the actual cross no longer exists. The foundations might underneath, but the structure/roof etc. is built on top, so that people can use it as a meeting place etc.

Okay, now we know what this type of structure is, or was. Now I’m curious about this actual building, in Bingham. There are actually words going around the building, just above the arches. Luckily, someone that was curious about it, said them out loud, and here they are:

“This market cross has been built in affectionate remembrance of John Hassall of Shelford by his friends and neighbours An Dni (unreadable bit) 'mdiiilt' to be beloved is better than all bargains”

Now, this says it’s a market cross, but the websites (Wikipedia, nottshistory) state it’s a butter cross. But they’re different types of ‘crosses’, so maybe because it’s smaller than a market place, people are saying butter.

Now, let’s look at the architect that built this. Remember, this is the actual structure, not the ‘cross’ that may still be underneath it.

Well, according to this website:

http://www.binghamheritage.org.uk/built_heritage/house_histories/built_market_place.php

It was Thomas Chambers Hine, and he built it for John Hassall the Earl of Chesterfields popular land agent. We’ll come to him in a min, but first Thomas.

Well, good old Wikipedia has him, and he’s designed plenty of buildings:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Chambers_Hine

And this shows that he was a well-respected person:

<https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/search/archives/4284e2b2-ebc1-39c9-81ae-4da368ca0e3c>

“Thomas Chambers Hine was born in London in 1813, the eldest son of hosiery manufacturer Jonathan Hine. In 1834, Hine completed his architecture training in London and moved to Nottingham. In 1848, he won a national competition to design a pair of agricultural workers' cottages and published a monograph (MS 575/3) containing a specification and designs for them. Important commissions followed including the Nottingham Corn Exchange (1849-1850) in Thurland Street, a factory for Hine and Mundella Ltd (1851) in Station Street, and the rebuilding of Ogston Hall, Derbyshire (1851-1864) and Flintham Hall, Nottinghamshire (1851-1857). Hine was as versatile as he was prolific and applied a variety of styles to the many houses, hospitals, schools, churches and railway stations that he designed in the East Midlands.

Hine's later projects included the rebuilding and renovation of the castle, shire hall, and courts in Nottingham. He was in partnerships with William Patterson in the 1830s and 1840s, Robert Evans until 1867, and finally, his son George Thomas Hine. T.C. Hine was also an enthusiastic building conservationist, lecturer on archaeology and architecture, and was elected a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1876. He died in Nottingham in 1899.”

So, who was the person that he built it for? John Hassall the Earl of Chesterfields popular land agent. But take note, not the Earl of Chesterfield, but his land agent. This can be confirmed by this intense site:

<http://www.thepeerage.com/i784.htm#s10187>

Chesterfield

[10th Earl of, co. Derby \(Edwyn Francis\)](#) b. 15 Mar 1854, d. 24 Jan 1933
[11th Earl of, co. Derby \(Henry Athole\)](#) b. 29 May 1855, d. 2 Nov 1935
[12th Earl of, co. Derby \(Edward Henry\)](#) b. 9 Feb 1889, d. 2 Aug 1952
 [13th Earl of, co. Derby \(James Richard\)](#) b. 11 Nov 1880, d. 15 Aug 1967
 [1st Countess of \(Catherine\)](#) b. 1609, d. 9 Apr 1667
[1st Earl of, co. Derby \(Philip\)](#) b. 1584, d. 12 Sep 1656
 [2nd Earl of, co. Derby \(Philip\)](#) b. c 1634, d. 28 Jan 1713/14
 [3rd Earl of, co. Derby \(Philip\)](#) b. 3 Feb 1672/73, d. 27 Jan 1725/26
 [4th Earl of, co. Derby \(Philip Dormer\)](#) b. 22 Sep 1694, d. 24 Mar 1773
 [5th Earl of, co. Derby \(Philip\)](#) b. 10 Nov 1755, d. 29 Aug 1815
[6th Earl of, co. Derby \(George\)](#) b. 23 May 1805, d. 1 Jun 1866
[7th Earl of, co. Derby \(George Philip Cecil Arthur\)](#) b. 28 Sep 1831, d. 1 Dec 1871
[8th Earl of, co. Derby \(George Philip\)](#) b. 29 Nov 1822, d. 19 Oct 1883
[9th Earl of, co. Derby \(Henry Edwyn Chandos\)](#) b. 8 Apr 1821, d. 21 Jan 1887
[Countess of \(Agnes\)](#)
[Countess of \(Angela Domitilla\)](#) d. 5 Jul 1952
 [Countess of \(Anne Elizabeth\)](#) b. 7 Sep 1802, d. 27 Jul 1885
[Countess of \(Anne\)](#) d. Nov 1667
 [Countess of \(Anne\)](#) b. 1759, d. 20 Oct 1798
[Countess of \(Catherine Jane Jarvis\)](#) d. 3 Feb 1880
[Countess of \(Catherine\)](#) d. 28 Aug 1636
[Countess of \(Dorothea\)](#) b. c 1828, d. 26 Apr 1923
 [Countess of \(Elizabeth\)](#) b. 29 Jun 1640, d. Jul 1665
[Countess of \(Elizabeth\)](#) b. 1653, d. c 24 Oct 1677
 [Countess of \(Enid Edith\)](#) b. 10 Sep 1878, d. 30 Nov 1957
[Countess of \(Henrietta\)](#) b. 17 Nov 1762, d. 31 May 1813
[Countess of \(Marianne\)](#) b. c 1837, d. 18 Dec 1875
[Countess of \(Petronilla Melusina\)](#) b. c 1693, d. 16 Sep 1778
[Gertrude Maria](#) b. 15 May 1835, d. 5 Mar 1864
[Gertrude Trevor](#) b. 24 Sep 1811, d. 17 Dec 1870
[Hilda](#)
[James](#) d. b 1948
[N.](#)
[Rosa Maud](#) d. 14 Jun 1937
[Rowland Winsley](#) b. 23 Aug 1811, d. 23 Dec 1891

So, who was he? Well, it turns out he was a kind landlord, and even allowed some farmers to put their cows in his land while they brought the hay in:

<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/monographs/mellors1924/landagents.htm>

JOHN HASSALL, (d. March 15th, 1859), of Shelford Manor, was a squire, farmer and land agent to the Earl of Chesterfield, the owner of estates in Shelford, Bingham, Gedling, and many other parishes. He, in 1844 was captain of the Holme Pierrepont troop of South Nottinghamshire Yeomanry. Shelford was before the Reformation the seat of an Austin Priory, and in the Civil War the Manor house, which was held for the King, was stormed and burnt by Colonel Hutchinson, and was partly rebuilt. Traces of the fire still remain. Mr. Hassall was a kindly-hearted and considerate agent for a good landlord, quiet and helpful. Some of his labourers had a field and a cow, and he would say "turn your cow into my field until you have mown your hay." He was a remarkably early riser: In spring or summer you must see him before 5.30 a.m., or he would be off. He was much respected, and in 1859 an elegant octagonal Butter Cross was erected in Bingham Market Place by subscription, at a cost of about £700, as a memorial to his worth and character. The cross stands on or near the site of an ancient market cross, a market having been granted there in 1818 to be held on Thursdays, and Statute and other fairs were for centuries held there, but of late years they have languished. It may be that there was a desire to revive the usages of the past, as well as to perpetuate a good man's memory. Curiously, there was put on the new cross in old English characters and gilt lettering the motto "To be beloved is better than all bargains." The dear old man! That must have been one of his sayings, oft' repeated, quaint but expressive, a grand truth lifting the soul into a purer air with a wider view, for love is of God, and a loving home is a little heaven. The old cross was low and enclosed, but this is open for everybody, and his friends and neighbours would be reminded that good-will and the love it begets were more profitable than gains from merchandise, and this was responded to, for old people say that for a long period after his death on a certain day of the spring garlands of primroses decorated the eight pillars, brought by persons who knew him, "and these were redolent of his memory."

In Shelford church yard a recumbent ledger memorial tombstone with an incised floriated cross, covers the grave of John Hassall and of his wife who predeceased him 15 years, but the ages are not given. (Mr. G. H. Wright has kindly tendered aid for this paper).

So, in conclusion to this small bit of research, we've concluded that the 'butter cross' that was built is on the same site as the 'market cross', it was built by a experienced architect called Thomas Chambers Hine, for a well-respected land agent called John Hassall.

So, nothing sinister at all about this building, and these are found all over the UK, due to the original market and butter crosses that now are either non-existent or are buried deep.

Most are not as elaborate as this one, some are just a simple shelter, but some are more intricate, depending on the architect.