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.”

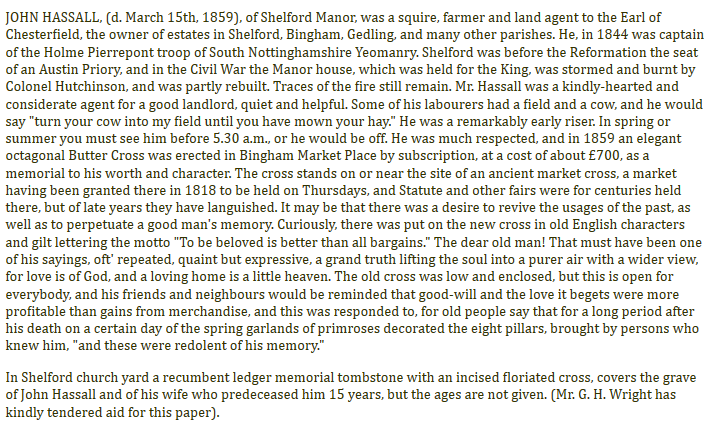
So, who was the person that he built it for? John Hassall the Earl of Chesterfields popular land agent. But take note, not the Earl of Chesterfield, but his land agent. This can be confirmed by this intense site:

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



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>



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.