



NEWSLETTER

May 2022

Letter from the Editor

- **Hello everyone! Welcome to the May edition of the Newsletter.**
- Our Newsletter will now be one every two months.
- Our next talk will be on **Monday 13th June 2022** 'Roman Pottery - Hadham Wares' by *Chris Lydamore*.
- WEAG will be running our taster weekends at Copped Hall on 16-17, 23-24 & 30-31 of July. The cost is £60 for each weekend. Contact Ian Hunter at coppedhalldigs@weag.org.uk
- **The WEAG Members dig** will take place on 23/24 July. Opportunities to supervise & finds process on the other two weekends will be available to members.
- If people are willing, we will also re-start our finds processing at Copped Hall. This will take place on Sundays, please drop us an email if you are interested in taking part.
- We are also investigating the possibility of further fieldwork in cooperating with other groups (watch this space).
- The feature article in this edition is **'Miller Christy'** the first excavation at Harlow Temple.
- Don't forget to check out a full list of books and DVDs that are available for purchase at special member prices.



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WEAG Member Profile

Would you like to be 'our profile on a member'? If so email us and we'll forward you the questions.

Stay In Touch

[weag.org.uk](https://www.weag.org.uk)

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WEAG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Lecture Program

2022 Lectures are accessible via Zoom at 7:15pm

Non-members are welcome to attend Lectures. A voluntary contribution of £2 would be appreciated from guests.

What's on locally?

For information on museum and local historical societies visit.

<http://www.weag.org.uk/events/whats-on-locally/>

Monday 13th June 2022. Zoom Lecture at 7:15pm for 7:30pm start. 'Roman Pottery - Hadham Wares' by Chris Lydamore.

For Lecture Meetings shown as 'Zoom', the Zoom details for that meeting will be circulated to WEAG members a few days before the meeting. Non-members are welcome to join in the Zoom meetings (for a £2 contribution).

Contact membership@weag.org.uk for more details.

BOOK SALE

	RRP	Special Offer Price
The Romano-British Temple at Harlow	£ 7.00	£ 3.50
Exploration and Discovery in South West Essex	£ 7.00	£ 3.50
Archaeology – what it is and how to do it	£ 9.50	£ 8.50
Copped Hall Report 2003	£ 4.00	£ 2.50
Copped Hall Report 2004 / 5	£ 7.00	£ 2.50
Copped Hall – A Short History (Cassidy)	£ 2.50	£ 2.50
Annual Review 2008/2009	£ 0.50	£ 0.50
Annual Review 2009/2010	£ 0.50	£ 0.50
Annual Review 2010/2011	£ 0.50	£ 0.50
Annual Review 2011/2012	£ 0.50	£ 0.50
Wanstead Park – Revealed (DVD)	£ 3.00	£ 1.50
Wanstead Park – Living Park (DVD)	£ 3.00	£ 1.50
The Wanstead Archive (DVD)	£ 3.00	£ 1.50



Miller Christy

By Lee Joyce.

In this two part article we will look at the life of Miller Christy, the first man to systematically excavate Harlow Temple. Part one will look at his life and work and part two will focus on his Temple excavations.

When Robert Miller Christy died at Middlesex Hospital in London after an operation his obituary in The Times read...

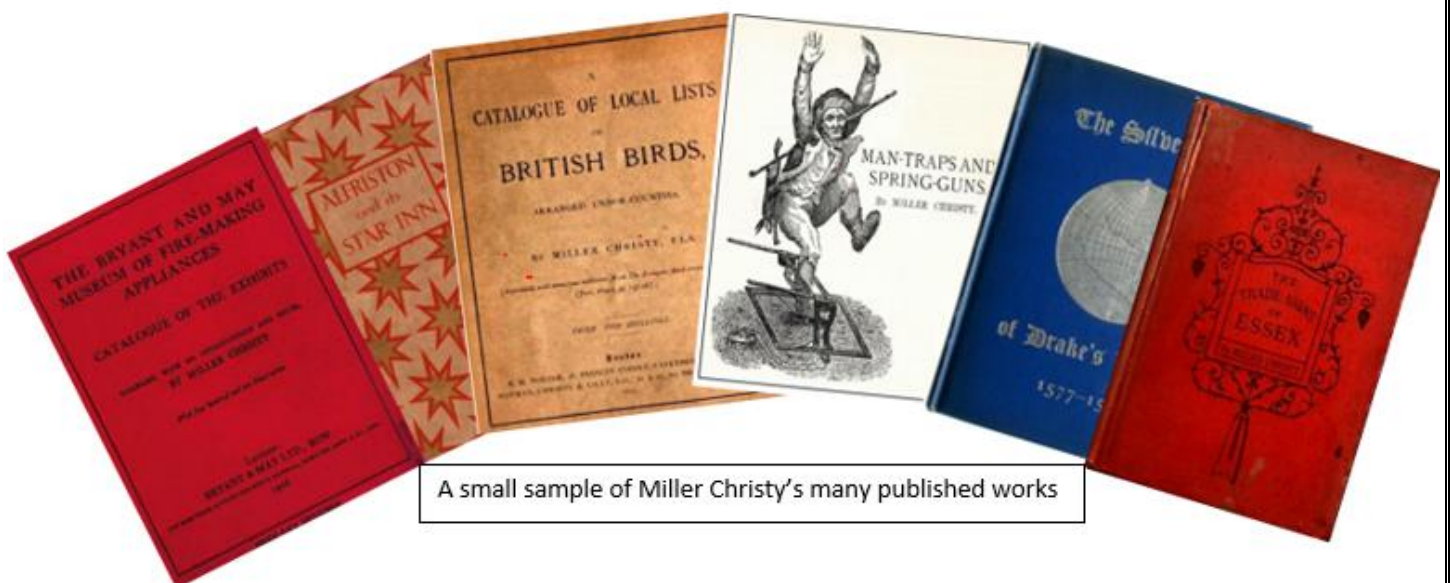
"Mr. Robert Miller Christy, F.L.S., of Chignal, St. James, Essex, who died recently in the Middlesex Hospital after a serious operation, was an authority on Essex archaeology and on many out-of-the-way subjects of interest to collectors and connoisseurs. As a member of the Council of the Essex Archaeological Society he superintended, in 1927, the excavation of the Roman temple foundations discovered at Harlow, Essex. He was author of a "Handbook of Essex" (1887), "Trade Signs of Essex" (1887), "Birds of Essex", (1890), and numerous minor publications. As well as being a naturalist and archaeologist, he was the curator of the Museum of Fire-Making Appliances".

W. Gurney Benham's tribute to Christy in Essex Archaeological society Trans 1928 reported "The unexpected death of Miller Christy, on 25 January, following on operation at the Middlesex Hospital, has deprived the Essex Archaeological

Society of a member of remarkable versatility. He was a many-sided student. As an antiquary he had explored practically all branches and all periods of archaeological lore. He was also a scientist and naturalist of exceptionally wide outlook and knowledge. In his enthusiastic pursuit of these studies, from boyhood onwards, he showed unusual powers of observation, indefatigable keenness of research, and very considerable scholarship and intelligence. His literary gifts gave him distinction as a clear, forcible, and often picturesque exponent. To the Essex Archaeological Society and to the County of Essex, of which he was an ever-devoted son, his removal means a loss which cannot be estimated." Christy published approx. 125 books,



Miller Christy (1861-1928)



A small sample of Miller Christy's many published works



Stevens, the family farm in Chignal St. James, near Chelmsford in Essex where Christy was born on 24 May 18

papers, pamphlets, notes etc. of which 25 related to his interest in Natural History, the vast majority of the remaining 100 were on Archaeology or history, with Essex firmly at the centre.

Robert Miller Christy came from an old-established Essex Quaker family, he was born on 24 May, 1861, at Chignal St. James, near Chelmsford. He was educated at Bootham School, York and his keen interest in and early observations on nature were recorded in his diary. These early years are amongst subjects covered in W.

Raymond Powell's four part article in The Essex Journal, where they are a major part of Vol1.

Amongst his achievements in field archaeology Christy was the first to discover the pottery kilns at Mill Green. Although he first believed them to be Roman by the time of his second report he is dating them to the late 15th early 16thC. The Mill Green industry proved to be so important that it was the first Pottery type chosen for the "A dated type-series of London medieval pottery" series and in it J Pearce et al put the floret for Mill Green Ware at 1270-1300 and it is no longer present in contemporary assemblages from the London excavations dated after 1450. After the late 14thC, most must be residual deposits.

During the 1880's Christy split his time between North America and Essex (this is covered in Powell. Vol.3). During the 1890s he was living in and around the Chelmsford area at Broomfield and the Chignal home of his brother Gerald. In 1912-13 Christy had Broomwood Lodge built at Chignal St James, designed by his architect friend Fred Rowntree. Broomwood Lodge, was in the early Elizabethan style, parts of the house were copied from houses Christy knew. The chimneys and the carved oak staircase



reproduced those of Priors, Broomfield, and the

home of numerous Christy family members for over 100yrs. The front of the house was of timber and brick noggings, as at Moyns Park, Steeple Bumpstead. In 1920 Christy put Broomwood Lodge up for sale and moved to London.

About 1889 Miller Christy had become a partner in the London printing firm of Hayman, Christy & Lilly. In 1890 they printed his book "Birds of Essex". During the War

years the company was taken over by the government and in 1918 Miller



The staircase at Priors. c1600

Christy retired. In the early 1920s Christy began to suffer from ill-health, but he continued to be active, arguably his most notable work of this period was directing the excavation of the Harlow temple mound. He died as the result of an operation on January 25th, 1928.

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Broomswood Manor Chignal, the mock Elizabethan house Christy built in 1912-13,



Moyns Park Steeple Bumpstead.

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*Percy Thompson (Likely but un-clarified author)

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The above Bibliography is for both parts of the article.

Finally, as she steps down as editor, we would like to say a big "THANK YOU" to Alex Lyons for all the work she has done producing the Newsletter in recent years. On the right is Alex working at Long Shaw with WEAG (Alex is using a resistance meter). Photo by. Kris Lockyear
<https://hertsgeosurvey.wordpress.com/2016/10/16/the-mystery-of-long-shaw/> for more details of what was found.



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