

**Situations Vacant:**

- **Birmingham Programme Secretary**

The Birmingham Programme Secretary is tasked with inviting and booking speakers relevant to the Birmingham members, both in person and online, confirming dates and venues and ensuring all logistical and technical requirements are met.

For further details, please contact the outgoing Programme Secretary:

Peter Middleton -  
[peter.bmsggh@googlemail.com](mailto:peter.bmsggh@googlemail.com)

- **Family History Centre**

More help is needed in the Society's Family History Centre in Birmingham to help visitors/enquirers to research their family's heritage using all the resources on the shelves, plus the internet, including FamilySearch and the Library Edition of FindMyPast. You will engage with visitors and respond to email and telephone enquiries. Other duties include providing occasional assistance with cataloguing of new material for both the facility and the on-line shop. Whilst helping other people, you can carry out your own research.

You will need to be comfortable using a computer & key board and have interest in family history, social history & local history. Any & all training/coaching and familiarisation will be provided.

**Contact Lead Librarian: Bernie McLEAN**

[b.mclean@midanc.uk](mailto:b.mclean@midanc.uk)

- **North Staffs Programme Secretary:**

The North Staff Programme Secretary is tasked with inviting and booking speakers, both in person and online, confirming dates and venues and ensuring all logistical and technical requirements are met.

**Contact: Dianne SHENTON**  
[d.shenton@midanc.uk](mailto:d.shenton@midanc.uk)

**Joke of the Month**

I'm going to name you after your father and grandfather so genealogists have a heck of a time trying to research you in the next century.



someecards  
user card

**Happy New Year!****Number One on your New Years Resolution List:**

**‘Break down your brick walls!’**

**Try using DNA-**

**Birmingham Group online talk:  
 2pm Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
 Guest speaker: John TITTERTON  
 Register on- line via the website.**

**New to Zoom- don't miss out?  
 Contact us and we'll guide you though it.  
 itsupport @midanc.uk**

Check out other Group Talks online and in person:

**Kenilworth: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 @ 7.30pm-** ‘AI For Family History’ on-line via Zoom Register on line.

**London and Home Counties: Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026 @11am-** ‘Wills and Probate’- in person at London Family History centre.

**Stourbridge: Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2026 @ 2.30pm-** ‘Short History of the Chance Brothers’- in person.

**Wolverhampton: Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026 @ 7.30pm -** ‘Longest Way Up and Shortest Way Down’- in person.

Did you know you may be able to find details of your ancestors amongst the deceased estates notices in **The Gazette?**

These notices are a call to any unknown creditors and beneficiaries to come forward with any claims to an estate before its distribution, and they're published in the official public record.

The earliest known entry is from 1681, but they became more commonplace from 1859 when legislation was passed, and then even more so from 1925 when the Trustee Act 1925 came into effect.

Learn more about these records and start your search for older records (pre-1998) in the ‘All Notices’ section.

**WANTED!**

Articles for the Midland Ancestor Journal send to the editor-

Linda Newey -l.newey@midanc.uk

**Remember the TV show- Heir Hunters?**

For over a century, Fraser and Fraser has led genealogical and probate research in the UK, connecting past and present through meticulous family tracing. The firm gained national recognition on the BBC's Heir Hunters (2006-2016), where their researchers uncovered lost heirs and forgotten legacies.

Founded in 1923 by Gertrude Christensen, the firm remains built on dedicated in-house expertise. Today, all case managers work toward CILEX Chartered Paralegal status, reflecting Fraser and Fraser's commitment to excellence. Named “Probate Research Firm of the Year 2025,” they now share family stories through their new series, Lineage.

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=fraser+and+fraser](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=fraser+and+fraser)

**Midland Ancestors Forthcoming Events:**

East Surrey Online Fair: Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Family History Show: Malvern Showground, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Remember, your local group needs your support!**