

### Situations Vacant:

- **Vice-Chair for Genealogy:**

This role has become vacant due to Mike Sharpe stepping up to take over the position of Chairman.

Interests should be directed by email to: [trustees@midanc.uk](mailto:trustees@midanc.uk)

- **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.

Contact outgoing Programme Secretary:

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

- **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)

- **TRUSTEES WANTED:**

Help shape the strategic direction, support good governance, bring fresh ideas and work collaboratively with a committed board and volunteer team.

Contact: [trustees@midanc.uk](mailto:trustees@midanc.uk)

### Remember-

Your local group needs your support even if its just putting the chairs out, selling raffles tickets, or making the tea and coffee.

Go on give it a go you'll be made most welcome- you know it will make a difference!

### Big Help Out Volunteer Week:

1<sup>st</sup> June -7<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Join the 10 million volunteers who do something useful for others

We have inherited unwanted birth, marriage and death certificates- otherwise known in the trade as 'Strays'- is there anyone who would like to restart a database?

Please contact Bernie Mc Lean- head librarian

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

## AGM and Study Day

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026- BMI, 9 Margaret Street, B3 3BS**

Registration begins at 10am.

10.30- **'The History of Medicine'** by Dr Mike Jenkins. Exploring the origins and evolution of medicine and the health challenges experienced by our ancestors as well as the innovations that have supported and led to modern medicine. Speaker: Dr Mike Jenkins- a hospital doctor and G.P. of 40 years who is now a keen amateur historian.

11.30- Coffee Break.

12.00- Annual General Meeting.

12.30- Lunch.

14.00- **'Education or Evangelism? The Early Adult Schools and Brotherhood Movement in the West Midlands'** by Mr Andy Vail. The 19<sup>th</sup> century adult school movement was a significant philanthropic and social initiative designed to provide literacy, education and social improvement to the working class. Initiated primarily by the Quakers, these schools became crucial in fostering community self improvement and social life outside of public houses. Speaker: Mr Andy Vail has a University of Birmingham Modern History postgraduate qualification and a member of various history societies.

15.00- Closing words by the President Dr Chris Leigh.

Non members welcome but cannot vote at the AGM.

May events- for further details see the website. <https://midland-ancestors.uk/>



An Chlann Náisiúnta  
National Archives

Irish census 1926 now available- <https://nationalarchives.ie/collections/search-the-1926-census/>



Scotland's  
People

Now offering free on-line talks

NEW!

### Saturday Opening of the Family History Centre:

If this trial run proves popular then the Trustees will be looking to open the FHC on a more regular basis.

Check the website calendar for who will be on duty contact them direct

Use it- don't lose it!

Ever wondered what's in the Family History Centre- check out the library catalogue now available online.

<https://midland-ancestors.uk/about/libraries/>

### Quote of the Month:

Where there's a will, you'll find a genealogist!

**Free British Army Service Explorer (WW1 & WW2)**  
Matthen Holden Military Research Specialist  
CEO Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum

A free research tool to help researchers interpret service numbers or units including likely enlistment periods, battles, medals, etc.

<https://www.britisharmyservicenumbers.co.uk/army-service-explorer-tool>

### 'Hops Pubs and People'

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Fradley Village Hall, Lichfield, Staffordshire. WS13 8NL

<https://one-name.org/seminar-events>

- **Malting-** Martin Buckland
- **Norkies from East Anglia-** Andy Kerridge
- **The Scratch of the Hop:** Social history of hop growing in the West Midlands- Marsha O'Mahony
- **Researching Ancestors who worked in Pubs-** Simon Fowler
- **Temperance Records-** Dr David Beckingham
- **A pub as the Basis for a One-Place Study-** Gudrun Lauret

£27.50 including refreshments and a light buffet, closing date for bookings 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026