



# PotteriesGold

## Benefits to Beat the Cold

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With more **cold and frosty weather** forecast - and maybe more snow, - we thought it would be useful to put together a newsletter looking at how the benefits you get could help you **heat your home**.

Some of these are **paid automatically** if you meet the qualifying conditions.

Others have to be **claimed by you**.

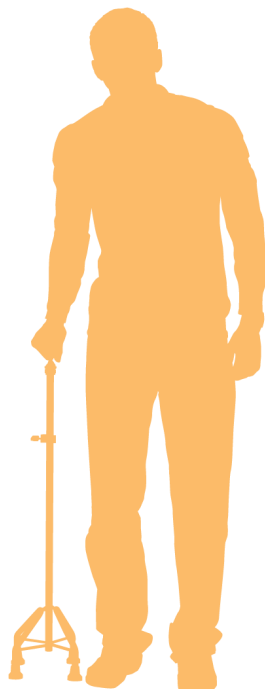
You could also ask our colleagues at **Potteries Moneywise** for help to cut your bills, perhaps by switching to a **cheaper supplier** for your gas and electricity.

Contact them on **01782 408685** or email **enquiries@potteriesmoneywise.org.uk**

### WINTER FUEL PAYMENT.

If you were born before **5th October 1954**, you could qualify for a **winter fuel payment**.

You might not qualify if you have been in **hospital** or a **care home** or if you are **subject to immigration control** or **not ordinarily resident** in the UK. Ask for more advice.



The **Winter Fuel Payment** is:

- \* **£200** if you are **under 80** and are the only person in your home who qualifies.
- \* **£100** if you are **under 80** and **someone else** in your household **under 80** also qualifies.
- \* **£300** if you are **over 80**, and the only person in your household who qualifies.
- \* **£150** if you are **over 80** and **someone else** in your household aged **over 80** also qualifies.
- \* **£200** if you are aged **over 80** and there is **someone else** aged **under 80** in your household (they will get **£100**).
- \* If you get **Pension Credit**, you get the **full amount**, even if another pensioner who is not your partner shares your home.

## COLD WEATHER PAYMENTS.

Worth **£25 per week**, these should **happen automatically** if the average temperature at your local weather station is **zero or below** for **seven days in a row**.

You qualify if:

- \* You are **not working** and get **Universal Credit**, and you have either i) a **child under 5** or ii) you have **limited capability for work** or work-related activity. You also qualify if you get a **disabled child addition** in your UC, whether you are working or not.
- \* You get **Income Support**, **Income-based JSA** or **Income-related ESA** and you either i) responsible for a **child under 5**, or ii) get Child Tax Credit including a **disabled child element**, or iii) a disability or pensioner premium, or iv) you have limited capability for work/work-related activity.
- \* You get **Pension Credit**.

You can find more information on [.GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

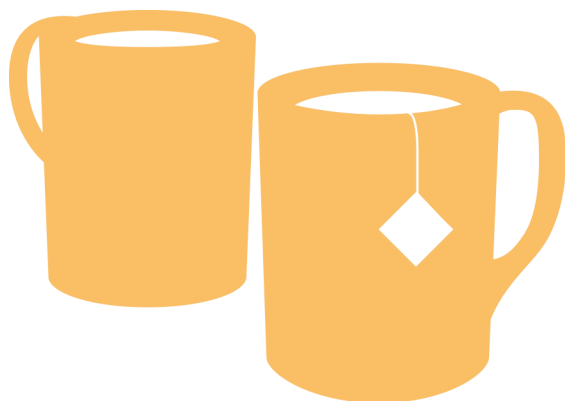


## THE WARM HOME DISCOUNT SCHEME.

You could get **£140 off** your electricity bill for winter **2020/2021** if:

- \* You get **Guarantee Pension Credit** or you have a **low income**, and;
- \* **You** (or your partner) is the bill payer and your **energy supplier** is part of the scheme.

If you get **Guarantee Pension Credit** you should already have **received a letter** telling you to **call a helpline** by **26 February 2021** to confirm your details. If you get Guarantee Pension Credit and have not yet heard, please call the helpline on **0800 731 0214**.



If you have a **low income** but don't get Guarantee Pension Credit, the rules are different. Your **electricity supplier** decides who can get the discount.

**Check with your supplier** to see if you're eligible and how to apply. Do this **as soon as possible** - the number of discounts suppliers can give are limited.



**Potteries Gold** is a **Citizens Advice Staffordshire North & Stoke-on-Trent** project, to help people in Stoke-on-Trent cope with changes to the benefit system

« **Online Talks and Training for community groups** «

« **PIP/ESA Workshops** « **Benefit Leaflets**

« **The Potteries Gold Post** « **Volunteering** «

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