



## PRESS RELEASE

12th September 2024

Citizens Advice South Warwickshire is urging residents over State pension age and on a low income to consider a claim for Pension Credit - and to do so before 21st December. Those receiving the benefit will also get the government's Winter Fuel Payment to help with heating costs - worth up to £300. New restrictions to the Winter Fuel Payment scheme make it even more important to claim Pension Credit this year.

Pension Credit is a means-tested benefit worth an average £3,900\* a year to help people with the cost of living. Every year large sums of money set aside by the Government go unclaimed - as many as 880,000 households are missing out nationally. Claims can be backdated by three months, making 21st December the last date on which a claim could trigger eligibility for the Winter Fuel Payment.

**Julie Robinson, Chief Executive of Citizens Advice South Warwickshire, says:** 'The benefits system can be confusing. Our charity is here to provide people with advice about how to claim.

'As winter approaches, it's really important that people who are eligible do claim what they are entitled to, and get a much-needed financial lift to help them manage their bills.'

### **Further help:**

To contact Citizens Advice South Warwickshire you can call our Adviceline on **0808 250 5715** or visit one of our regular drop-in sessions in either Stratford upon Avon or Leamington Spa. Further details about our opening hours can be found on our website [casouthwarwickshire.org.uk](https://casouthwarwickshire.org.uk).

Details of how to claim Pension Credit by phone, post or online can also be found online at [gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim](https://gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim).

### **More details about the Winter Fuel Payment:**

The Winter Fuel Payment (WFP) will only be paid to those claiming Pension Credit and pension aged people in receipt of: income support; Universal Credit; income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA); income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), Income Support and tax credits. This will cover mixed age couples and people who are working/responsible for children and who are not in receipt of pension credit.

A pensioner in receipt of tax credits will need to make a claim for a WFP (it should be automatic for people in receipt of the other benefits).

\*[gov.uk/government/news/you-could-get-pension-credit-week-of-action-to-drive-take-up](https://gov.uk/government/news/you-could-get-pension-credit-week-of-action-to-drive-take-up)