



# Retired Members Websites and Free Downloads

## Introduction

The original version of this document accompanied the article (of the same title) that featured in the Spring 2011 retired members' '[Pensions Focus](#)' newsletter. The updated list below details websites/downloads that you may find useful. If you have any other suggestions that you would like to share with our retired members please contact us at [pensions@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:pensions@northyorks.gov.uk)

## Free or discounted services for pensioners

### Healthcare

- **Free NHS Dental Care for those receiving pension credit**

Free NHS Dental Care is available for those receiving Pension Credit guarantee credit when the treatment starts. You'll be asked to show proof that you're entitled to help with dental costs in the form of an award notice from the Pension Centre. For more information visit

<http://www.nhs.uk/nhsengland/Healthcosts/pages/Dentalcosts.aspx>

- **Prescriptions & Free NHS eye Tests (over 60s).**

Most health treatment under the NHS (National Health Service) is free, although there can be charges for some things. If you're over 60, you're entitled to free prescriptions and sight tests under the NHS.

For more information for eligibility for prescriptions and eye tests visit

<http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcosts/Pages/Eyecarecosts.aspx>

- **Winter Fuel Allowance**

You could get between £100 and £300 tax-free to help pay your heating bills if you were born on or before 5 January 1952. This is known as a 'Winter Fuel Payment'.

Most payments are made automatically between November and December. You should get your money by Christmas.

You usually get a Winter Fuel Payment automatically if you get the State Pension or another social security benefit (not Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction, Child Benefit or Universal Credit).

If you [qualify](#) but don't get paid automatically, you'll need to make a [claim](#). You can get a claim form sent to you by calling the Winter Fuel Payment Helpline on 08459 151515. For further details on eligibility for this payment, and how to apply and get a claim form go to <https://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment/overview>

- **Cold Weather Payments**

If you're getting certain benefits, you may be able to get a Cold Weather Payment.

Payments will be made when your local temperature is either recorded as, or forecast to be, an average of zero degrees Celsius or below over 7 consecutive days.

You'll get a payment of £25 for each 7 day period of very cold weather between 1 November and 31 March. More information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment/overview>

## Travel

- **Travel with Freedom pass (over 60s)**

Eligible older and disabled people are entitled to free off-peak travel on buses anywhere in England.

### Eligibility

To be eligible for an older person's bus pass you must be of pensionable age, or for men, the age at which a woman of the same age would be eligible for the state pension.

Please visit the [government state pension age calculator](#) to see at what age you become eligible for your state pension. Please note, for the purposes of checking the age at which you will become eligible for an older person's bus pass, you should enter your gender as female in the calculator.

### Applications for an older person's bus pass

Applications for an older person's bus pass must be submitted to the local authority where you live, either in person or by post. More information can be found [here](#).

North Yorkshire County Council is responsible for issuing the passes, however, there are numerous [locations](#) across the county you can visit to submit your application.

If you are a resident of the City of York, you should apply to them, or if you live outside of North Yorkshire, you can find details of who you should apply to at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-elderly-person-bus-pass>

- **Senior Railcard**

If you're 60 or over, you can save a third on most standard and first-class rail fares throughout Britain when you buy a Senior Railcard. It makes travelling by train more economical and accessible.

A Senior Railcard is available to anyone aged 60 or over. You can use it throughout England, Wales and Scotland and it's valid for 12 months at a cost of £30. A Senior Railcard will give you savings on most tickets, normally a third off most standard and first-class fares.

To buy your Senior Railcard, you'll need to fill out an application form. You can pick up a form from your nearest station ticket office or you can complete the form online.

For more information visit <http://www.senior-railcard.co.uk/?source=portal>

- **Qualifying for a free passport**

If you are a British national born on or before 2 September 1929 you can apply for a free ten year passport from the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) - formerly the UK Passport Service. This passport will be free whether it is a renewal of an existing passport or your first one.

There are several ways you can apply. First you need an application form. You can either complete the form online or get a paper copy of the form by:

- sending an online request to IPS who will then send you a form
- collecting it from a Post Office Branch that offers the Check & Send Service
- calling the Passport Adviceline 0300 222 0000 to request one

For more information for qualifying for a free passport please visit <https://www.gov.uk/free-passport>

### **TV Licence (over 75s)**

When you reach the age of 75, you may apply for a free over 75 TV Licence. This licence will be sent to you every three years, provided you have your **National Insurance number**.

If you're currently 74 and your licence is due for renewal, you should buy a short-term licence. This will cover you up to your 75th birthday.

For a free over 75 TV Licence, or a short-term licence, **apply online** at the following: <http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/check-if-you-need-one/for-your-home/aged-74-and-over-aud3/>

### **Free entry to national museums and galleries**

You can visit the permanent collections of the museums and galleries sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport for free. These include:

- **British Museum**  
[www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org)

- **Geffrye Museum**  
[www.geffrye-museum.org.uk](http://www.geffrye-museum.org.uk)
- **Horniman Museum**  
[www.horniman.ac.uk](http://www.horniman.ac.uk)
- **Imperial War Museum**  
[www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk)
- **Museum of Science and Industry**  
[www.mosi.org.uk](http://www.mosi.org.uk)
- **National Coal Mining Museum for England**  
[www.ncm.org.uk](http://www.ncm.org.uk)
- **National Football Museum**  
[www.nationalfootballmuseum.com](http://www.nationalfootballmuseum.com)
- **National Gallery**  
[www.nationalgallery.org.uk](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk)
- **National Maritime Museum**  
[www.nmm.ac.uk](http://www.nmm.ac.uk)
- **National Museums Liverpool**  
[www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk)
- **National Museum of Science and Industry**  
[www.nmsi.ac.uk](http://www.nmsi.ac.uk)
- **National Portrait Gallery**  
[www.npg.org.uk](http://www.npg.org.uk)
- **Natural History Museum**  
[www.nhm.ac.uk](http://www.nhm.ac.uk)
- **People's History Museum**  
[www.phm.org.uk](http://www.phm.org.uk)
- **Royal Armouries**  
[www.royalarmouries.org](http://www.royalarmouries.org)
- **Sir John Soane's Museum**  
[www.soane.org](http://www.soane.org)
- **Tate**  
[www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk)
- **Tyne and Wear Museums**  
[www.twmuseums.org.uk](http://www.twmuseums.org.uk)

- **Victoria and Albert Museum**  
[www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)
- **Wallace Collection**  
[www.wallacecollection.org](http://www.wallacecollection.org)

You may have to pay to enter temporary exhibitions, but a discount is usually available for pensioners.

### **Retired Members Organisations**

- **Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme (RSVP)**

The retired and senior volunteer programme is a free standing programme within CSV (the Community Service Volunteers), which encourages the growing number of those aged 50+ to volunteer in their local area in England, Scotland and Wales.

For more information please visit [www.csv-rsvp.org.uk](http://www.csv-rsvp.org.uk)

- **Unison – Retired Members' Section**

UNISON works to raise awareness of issues which concern older people and to influence decision makers. Their priorities include:

- Pensioner poverty
- Health care and age discrimination
- Isolation and mobility issues

The national officer with responsibility for retired members is:

Colin Derrig  
UNISON Centre  
130 Euston Road  
London NW1 2AY  
Email: [c.derrig@unison.co.uk](mailto:c.derrig@unison.co.uk)

If you want to find out more about the activities and/or join the Unison Retired Members Section please contact the relevant secretary below. To be eligible to join you must be 55 or over and have been a Unison member for at least 2 years prior to retiring. The current life membership fee is £15. For more details, visit <http://www.unison.org.uk/about/our-organisation/member-groups/retired-members/>

#### **Hambleton & Richmondshire Area**

Contact: Sheila Crosby  
Tel: 01325 487050  
Email: [Sheila.cynthia@virgin.net](mailto:Sheila.cynthia@virgin.net)

#### **York & Selby Area**

Contact: Sheila Crosby  
Tel: 01325 487050

Email: [Sheila.cynthia@virgin.net](mailto:Sheila.cynthia@virgin.net)

Contact: Anne Ward  
Tel: 01609 532670

**Scarborough Area**

Contact: John Wainwright  
Tel: 01723 354183

**Craven Area**

Contact: Gill Fox  
Tel: 01535 643568

**Main Unison Office**

Email: [unison@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:unison@northyorks.gov.uk)