

## **Christmas Gift Voucher Scheme 2020**

Update for Frodsham Town Council Meeting 23 November 2020

Following decisions taken at a Working Group meeting on 10 September, the Christmas Voucher Scheme was launched towards the end of September 2020.

### **Application process for residents**

The scheme was publicised with an article on the home page of the Town Council's website [www.frodsham.gov.uk](http://www.frodsham.gov.uk) which had a form allowing people to apply online as well as a form that people could download and print. The scheme was promoted regularly via our Facebook page and Twitter feed.

It was not possible to print an application form in Frodsham Life this year, as the magazine stopped publishing earlier this year. However, application forms and posters were distributed at a number of locations: Castle Park House, Frodsham Post Offices in Main Street and St Hilda's Drive, Frodsham Community Centre, Top Shop in Langdale Way, Gleaves Garden Centre, St Laurence Church, Ring O'Bells Pub. Frodsham Library was the only location that had been used in previous years which was unavailable this year.

We notified all of the local churches and asked them to publicise it via their newsletters and we asked local schools to do the same with a request that pupils and parents notify their relatives and friends aged over 70.

We contacted a number of local voluntary organisations groups asking for their assistance with publicity, including Weaver Vale Housing Trust, Home Instead Frodsham, OPAL and the Food Bank.

### **Number of Applications**

By the closing date of 6 November 2020 we had received applications from 617 addresses, covering 926 individuals. We received applications from 1,132 people last year.

207 addresses, covering 294 individuals (roughly one-third) used the online form.

### **Businesses and Good Causes**

Businesses and good causes were recruited by emailing or telephoning previous participants, followed by personal visits with application forms.

The final list of participating organisations this year is:

#### **Shops (24)**

4 Seasons 4 Food, Main St  
No. 5 The Barbers, High St  
Boffeys Emporium, Lady Heyes  
Brew + Tucker, Church St  
Browsers Bazaar, Lady Heyes  
Candles Plus, Lady Heyes  
The Cottage Teashop, Main St  
HE Coward Butchers, Main St  
Devonshire Bakery, High St

DRB Jewellers, Church St  
Elliotts Newsagents, Main St  
Flowers by Jenny Penny  
Frodsham Coffee Shop, Main St  
Robert Gleave & Sons, Mill Lane  
Hales Fruits, Church St  
Home and Beauty, Church St  
Kates Closet, Langdale Way  
Millmark Foods, Main St

The Queens Head, Main St  
Ring 'O Bells, Bellemonte Rd  
Roys Relix, Main St

Simply Local - St Hilda's Drive Post Office  
Top Shop, Langdale Way  
The Travellers Rest, Kingsley Rd

### **Good Causes (4)**

4th Frodsham Scout Group  
Frodsham Community Association  
St Laurence Parish Church  
Will to Work Workshop

### **Distribution of Vouchers**

Vouchers have been prepared for all people who applied before the closing date and are now available at Castle Park House for delivery.

Eight Town Councillors have indicated their willingness to deliver vouchers, and Cheshire West & Chester Councillor Lynn Reilly has also offered to assist.

The numbers are as follows

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Number of addresses</b>	<b>Care Homes</b>	<b>Councillors able to deliver</b>
Castle Park	225		1
Lakes	141		2
Overton & Five Crosses	135	2	2
Waterside	120	1	2
Frodsham (CWAC)			1

In addition, Cllr Ashton has offered to seek assistance from Frodsham & District Open Hands volunteers.

### **Late Applications**

A number of applications have been received since the closing date and other enquiries have been received.

### **For decision:**

Whether to accept late applications and, if so, what will be the absolute cut-off date?

It is suggested that vouchers for any late applications be sent out by post.