

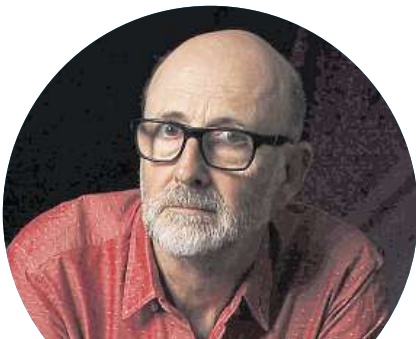
Other-worldly wonders are revealed in underwater images contest

POST SCRIPT, P11



Spying game from a different angle

PEOPLE, P15



‘Stokes not a Messiah – but part of team’

SPORTS POST, P27

‘And when that happens the Jew hatred we have seen on the streets of western cities will intensify.’

BILL CARMICHAEL, P13

Yorkshire’s National Newspaper

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## Fears over access to healthcare in county

Cancer patients in rural areas are facing 100-mile round trips

Nathan Hyde  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE in North Yorkshire are struggling to access healthcare due to a lack of services and poor public transport, according to new research.

Healthwatch North Yorkshire (HNY) conducted a survey which found people frequently travel more than 20 miles for hospital and dentist appointments, while some cancer patients are forced to make 100-mile round trips.

HNY said NHS healthcare services have been withdrawn in recent years due to a lack of funding and staff shortages, so volunteers are stepping up and “filling the gaps”. It also found access to specialist services, for mental health conditions, menopause or dementia, is “a lottery”.

One healthcare professional said it is “not uncommon” to see patients travel over an hour to get to a specialist service, adding: “If they’ve got pain, they’ve got fatigue, they’ve got incontinence issues, they just can’t travel that far”.

Ashley Green, Chief Executive Officer at HNY, said: “Living in a rural location only exacerbates the difficulties people are facing such as long hospital waiting times, struggles to get an NHS dentist and problems booking appointments with the GP.”

“Add in the complexity of rurality – limited transport, no local hospital, poor wifi, no local GP – it only adds more and more obstacles to people’s ability to access the

healthcare they need.” The report says it is “a myth” that everyone in North Yorkshire is wealthy and has a car, as many people who are elderly or struggling with long-term health conditions do not drive and are forced to use unreliable bus services or pay for expensive taxis.

Around 20 per cent of people in rural areas of North Yorkshire cannot reach their GP practice within 30 minutes by walking or taking public transport.

One participant told researchers: “I don’t drive. The bus is once every three hours through the village. To get to a main road there are no pavements or lighting. The road out of the village is usually waterlogged and muddy. I’m recovering from cancer and it’s too great a risk to negotiate traffic.”

Another participant said he drove his son to hospital after his appendix ruptured because a 999 call operator said “the ambulance would take hours”. “I took him myself,” he said. “If I had waited for the ambulance he may not have survived.”

HNY said healthcare providers must provide services that meet people’s needs.

It also said a review of public transport is needed so bus operators can figure out how they can help passengers access hospitals and other healthcare services.

HNY and the Institute of Social Justice at York St John University conducted a survey involving 213 people and interviews with 31 people in nine focus groups.

Comment: Page 12.

Artwork from another dimension



Artist Gemma Anderson-Tempini with *And She Built a Crooked House*, presented by Artangel in Far Headingley, Leeds, as part of the Leeds 2023 Year of Culture. The immersive installation is inspired by the long-studied scientific theory of the fourth spatial dimension.

## Drivers’ anger on potholes revealed in poll

DRIVERS’ anger at the condition of local roads has reached an eight-year high, with a third of drivers swerving to avoid a pothole, a new survey suggests.

Some 49 per cent of respondents to a poll of 2,583 UK drivers commissioned by the RAC said the issue was their biggest motoring concern.

This is the highest proportion recorded in the annual survey since the motoring services company began asking drivers for their views on the state of local roads in 2015.

The previous high of 46 per cent was in 2021. In the latest poll, two-thirds of those questioned said the condition of the local roads they

regularly drive on had deteriorated in the previous 12 months.

One in three (35 per cent) said they had swerved quickly to avoid a pothole and ended up crossing into another lane.

Concerns about the condition of local roads were largely due to poor surfaces, but other factors included faded markings, litter and signage visibility. Drivers questioned were generally more positive about motorways and high-speed dual carriageways, with just 11 per cent saying the condition of these roads was a major concern. But 44 per cent said their condition had worsened in the previous year.

The cost of bringing pothole-plagued local roads in England and Wales up to scratch has been estimated at £14bn.

Potholes often form when water enters cracks in the road surface, then freezes and expands.

RAC head of policy Simon Williams said: “Sadly, a long-term lack of funding for maintenance and repair work means our roads are in such a fragile state that it only takes a little rainwater getting into existing flaws followed by some sub-zero temperatures for them to break down further.”

The Department for Transport was approached for a comment.

## One street... and its £73,000 in parking fines

MORE than £73,000 in parking fines have been issued in a single street over three years, figures from North Yorkshire Council reveal.

Valley Drive, next to Valley Gardens, Harrogate, has topped the list for the most on-street fines issued in the town during each of the last three years.

North Yorkshire Council supplied its parking fine data for Harrogate to the Local Democracy Reporting Service following a freedom of information request.

In 2021, there were 1,402 penalty charge notices (PCN) issued on Valley Drive, generating £35,153 for the council. Last year there were 978, worth £23,814. This year the council has issued 672 PCNs, bringing in £15,070.

Valley Drive is in a disc zone which is when motorists display a paper disc with the clock set to the time of arrival to receive free parking. If motorists do not display a disc, or they stay longer than their allotted time, they are liable to receive a £50 PCN.

The council has stepped up patrols on Valley Drive, which has reduced the number of offences.

### WEATHER

Wet and windy. Yellow warning for rain.  
Full forecast: Back Page

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### Council ‘black hole’

NORTH Yorkshire Council needs to find £25m in cost savings or it will struggle to fulfil a range of economic goals, its deputy leader has warned.

North Yorkshire Council’s executive member for finance, Councillor Gareth Dadd, issued the alert as the authority’s executive met to consider the unitary council’s first economic strategy. Full story: Page 2.

### Minister in N Korea

RUSSIA’S Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov met North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Pyongyang and proposed regular security talks with the nation and China to deal with what he described as US-led military threats.

Mr Lavrov arrived in North Korea’s capital on a two-day trip to focus on how to boost the two countries’ defence ties. Full story: Page 10.

### Crosswords & Puzzles

See pages 2 and 18.



### Diabetes care bid

HARROGATE-BASED Inhealthcare has partnered with Spire Healthcare to launch a new service which aims to provide ongoing one-to-one care for people with type two diabetes.

The service will enable people with type two diabetes to access a remote monitoring service that combines physical consultations and virtual one-to-one support. Full story: Page 19.

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