

Low-income workers feel forced to work while sick, says Lancaster University report

Eugenia Bahit



PHOTO: CHEVANON PHOTOGRAPHY

Well over one million UK workers feel forced to work while ill because they don't meet the minimum income required to access Statutory Sick Pay (SSP), according to a new report from the Work Foundation at Lancaster University.

Published on the 20th of June this year, the report showed that 3.5% of the UK workforce are unable to access SSP due to a low income of less than £123 per week – the minimum wage required by the SSP.

The numbers indicated that close to 70% of the affected workers are women, while 33% are disabled, and more than 50% are people under the age of 25.

Researchers performed the study considering the data available in the Office for National Statistics (ONS) from January to March and conducted

fieldwork between the 29th of April and the 7th of May this year. In addition, they reviewed detailed literature and carried out some surveys across Great Britain.

The report concluded that while “time off has become widespread, access to it is unequal,” highlighting that “lower earners have less access to paid time off.” ■

Ribble Valley is dressing to the nines for the Clitheroe Food Festival

Eugenia Bahit



PHOTO: MARIA ORLOVA

Ribble Valley is dressing to the nines to host the Clitheroe Food Festival next month throughout the city, an event described by its organisers as “The ultimate celebration of local food.” The festival will open with the Taste Fest, a week-long celebration of diverse gastronomy.

Residents of Ribble Valley and visitors from everywhere are preparing their forks to savour a celebration that will start with the Taste Fest on Saturday, 3rd August, and conclude with the Food Festival on Saturday, 10th August.

Everybody will be able to attend both festivals for free and come across a wide variety of food and drink producers from Ribble Valley and Lancashire.

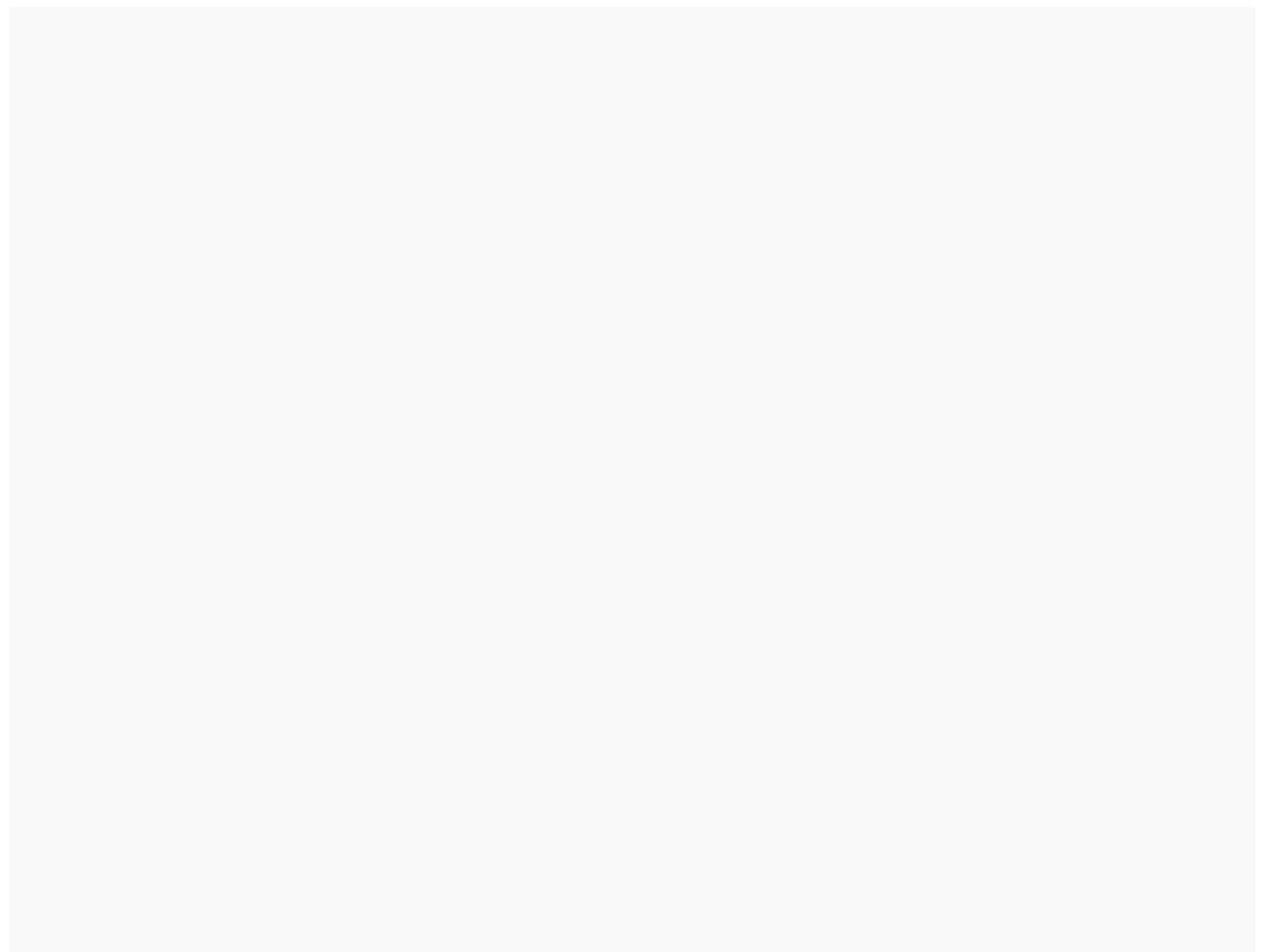
Food and beverage manufacturers from across England will also be present.

Furthermore, the Ribble Valley streets will offer live music, themed walks, brewery visits, and farm excursions for the public to visit with family, with friends, or just to pamper themselves.

Nicola Hopkins, the council's director of economic development and planning for Ribble Valley, said that both events are "a marvellous opportunity to showcase the wide range of mouth-watering locally-produced food and drink [in] the Ribble Valley and Lancashire," and added that "It's also a great way for local businesses to access new customers and expand their sales to a new audience."

Although all spots are fully booked, local businesses that missed out on booking their stands can still visit the festivals as attendees, sampling dishes from other producers in a family-friendly ambience. ■

“ This is a marvellous opportunity to showcase the wide range of mouth-watering locally-produced food and drink [in] the Ribble Valley and Lancashire,” and added that “It’s also a great way for local businesses to access new customers and expand their sales to a new audience.”



The emotional goodbye to David Murfin, the 81-year-old man rescued by the fire service last Friday in Bispham

Eugenia Bahit

After four days in recovery from a road traffic collision in Bispham, David Murfin, 81, passed away on Tuesday evening.

Last Friday, 21st June, around noon, a Ford Transit van collided with Murfin at the intersection of Bibby's Road and Bispham Road, Blackpool, leaving him trapped.

As The Lancashire Weekly reported days ago, after the Fire & Rescue Service rescued Murfin from under the vehicle, North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) paramedics attended and transported him to the hospital with several injuries.

After a four-day struggle, Murfin died on the evening of Tuesday, 25th June.

Murfin had been married to his late wife, Christine, for 30 years. As his family remembers, they loved gardening and exploring the world on their holidays. Today, Christine's family honoured him with an emotional tribute.

"David married into our family 30 years ago and had a life of love most people could only dream of," his family said.



PHOTO: LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY PRESS OFFICE

"David had a life of love most people could only dream of."

Murfin owned many rescue animals over the years, and his family emphasised his love for dogs by adding that he held "a huge heart" for them.

Lancashire police are continuing the investigation into the traffic collision and are appealing to the community for help. They ask witnesses and anyone with dashcam, CCTV, or mobile phone footage in the area to call 101. ■

Road Crime Unit confiscates 12 kg of cannabis near Chorley

Eugenia Bahit



PHOTO: TERRANCE BARKSDALE

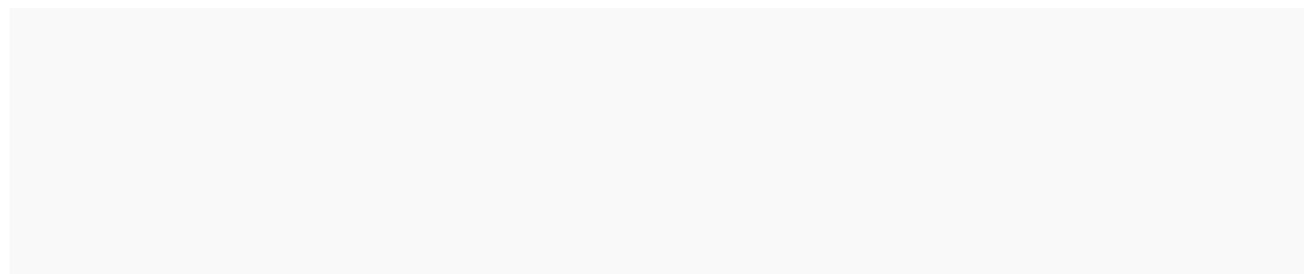
The Road Crime Unit confiscated 12 kg of cannabis, worth £50,000, on Monday, 1st July, near Chorley on the M6.

The incident occurred when officers detained a BMW 3 Series travelling south on the motorway after it attempted to flee while police signalled for it to stop. When officers searched the vehicle, they found 12 kg of cannabis.

Police arrested the car's driver — a 31-year-old man from London—, on suspicion of possession with intent to supply.

According to the Lancashire Constabulary press office, on Wednesday, 3rd July, the Crown Prosecution Service decided to charge Albion Lushaj, 31, of Cherry Tree Lane, Rainham, Greater London, with possession with intent to supply cannabis.

Lushaj is scheduled to appear at the Preston Magistrates' Court this morning. ■



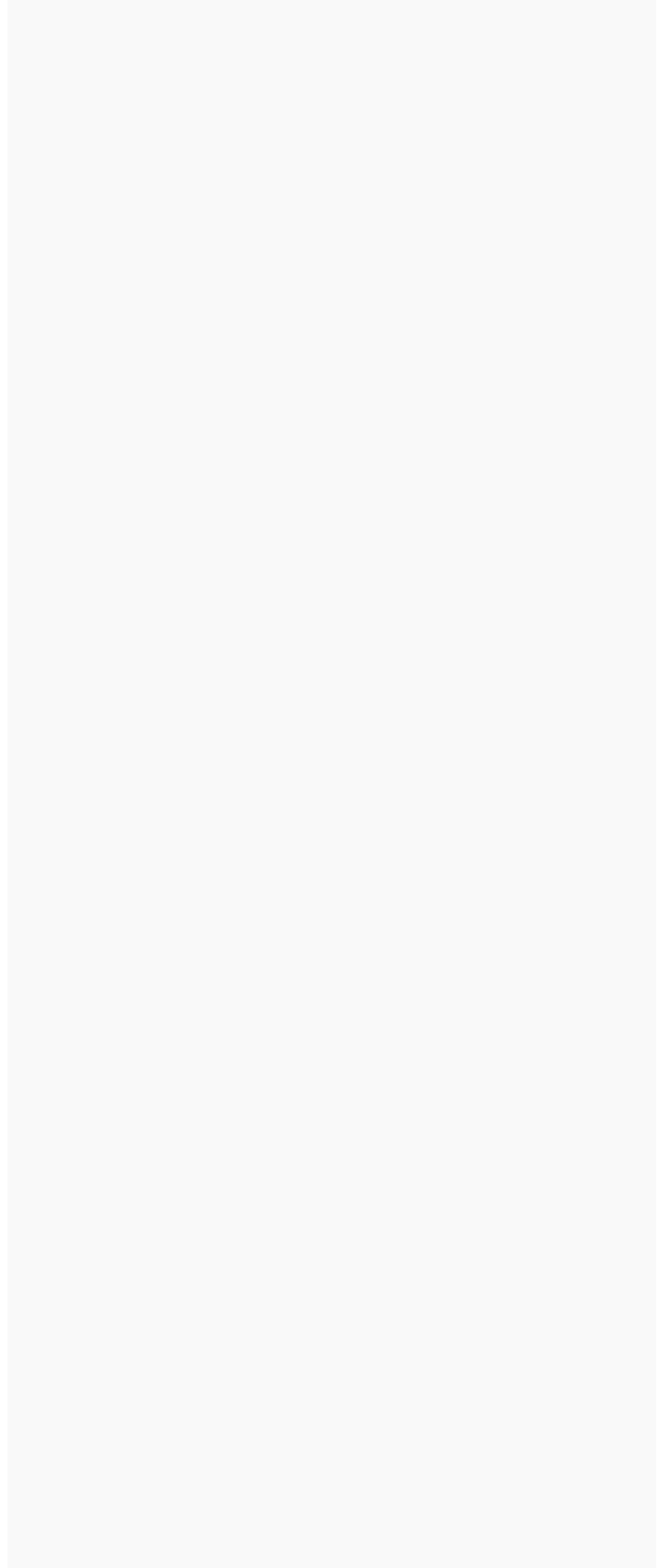
Lancashire in a nutshell

Eugenia Bahit

24/06/2024 — Preston Crown Court jailed four drug dealers for conspiring to supply cocaine. The gang members — Essa Akram, Ghaffar Ahmed, Asar Khan, and Vakar Ellahi — are to serve sentences of five to eight years each. Detective Peall said the criminals “targeted the most vulnerable” people to reach their goals.

27/06/2024 — A Preston Crown Court jury found an Oswaldtwistle man guilty of 43 sexual offences against five children and one woman. Peter Alan Barnes, 57, has perpetrated sexual offences over four decades. His youngest victim was only 9 years old. Barnes will remain in custody until his sentencing on 5th July.

28/06/2024 — An electric MG from Preston opened the new M55 to Heyhouses Link Road this morning. The opening — expected by the end of 2023 — had been delayed due to weather conditions. Fylde Council’s chief executive officer, Allan Oldfield, said it not only benefits the current economy but also opens growth opportunities.



228/06/2024 — The Haslingden Puddleducks Nursery received the Recipe4Health Gold Award. Lancashire County Council’s Trading Standards team awarded Haslingden Puddleducks Nursery for achieving a five-star food hygiene rating. Puddleducks Haslingden posted on their Facebook page: “We are always doing our best to encourage a healthy and varied menu for meals and snacks.”

28/06/2024 — Blackpool Council announced that Upbeat Rock Academy will introduce a local talent showcase before the main concert on Friday night, 30th August. Furthermore, the hip-hop dance crew House of Wingz will join the show. As usual, a celebrity will close the event by pulling the switch to brighten the nights for four months. ■

