

Editor John Roper
Tel: 07967 666794
Email: john.roper@profinder.eu
Production assistant:
Jocasta Roper

Associate editor Brian Shillibeer

Advertisement sales

Steve Anthony
Tel: 07967 585475
Email: steve.anthony@profinder.eu
Mehreen Haroon-Ali
Tel: 07932 243008
Email: mehreen.haroon@profinder.eu

Advertisement production

Email: fabricatorcopy@profinder.eu

Admin:

The Studio, Hillside Avenue,
Elstree & Borehamwood, WD6 1HQ
Tel: 07807 374932
cathryn.ellis@profinder.eu

The Fabricator is published in the UK by Profinder Ltd.

Opinions expressed in The Fabricator are those of the contributors and do not represent editorial policy.

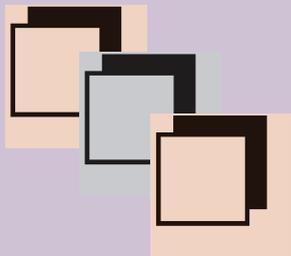
The Fabricator accepts payment for colour pictures.

Subscription rates: UK £45; rest of EU £60; worldwide £105

The Fabricator Vol 16 No 7 ISSN: 1752-2145

www.thefabricator.pro

Copyright © 2020 Profinder Ltd.



In association
with



THE FABRICATOR

Comment

So, how was it for you? Lockdown I mean. Were you furloughed? Did you furlough your staff? Or were you packed off to work from home and, if you are the boss who sent the staff off to work from home, did you get any sleep, worrying about what they were up to?

And now, it seems, it is all over bar the shouting. People are going back to work. We have three thirty some-things here, all furloughed, 80% of their wages no commuting, no expenses; Amazon never had it so good. Now the emails are arriving and they are being called back. Tears before bedtime. Though that might just be the Amazon finance director, quietly sobbing onto his balance sheet.

We hear a lot about the mental health of people in lockdown. No human interaction, strain on families, relationships. A particular thought goes out to those people told to work from home. Not a problem for me. I have been working from home for 20 years and aside from missing a few lunches – and a couple of you still owe me lunch, you know who your are – it is situation normal. But when you are not used to it, then the guilt kicks in. After you make the morning call-round, the phone doesn't ring. You don't have an active project, all your clients are probably furloughed anyway, and it's only 9:30! Should you go outside and kick a ball around with junior? Wash the car, vacuum the living room? What if the boss rings and you miss the call?

In perspective, if you were in the office you would probably be taking your turn at the coffee-run, replaying last night's episode of East Enders, or the big match all of which would take you nicely to lunch-time.

And spare a thought for the boss; If you are in the office, whatever you are actually doing, he can see that he is getting value for money, bums-on-seats, a buzzing office. Now, the doubt must be creeping in; "What are they up to? My phone hasn't rung all morning, Are they playing with the kids? Cleaning the car/house." I can tell you Lord Sugar does not approve of working from home.

The window industry has been opening up since sometime in May and companies are claiming to be busy, busier than before some of you say. But from some points of view it is back-to-the-future. A few, and a few big names too, didn't make it. But the phoenix is alive and well. It was never an endangered species but was last seen in big numbers in the eighties. I particularly like the 'pre-pack' variety. You get the finance for the buy-out in place, make sure the assets are secure, the bank is on-side, all arranged with the administrator before you make the announcement: – and you are off to a clean start, pain free, no liabilities, customers ready and willing. And, here is the kicker, suppliers willing to swallow the debt to continue supplying.

Probably not unique to our industry but does seem to be a feature. Something to do with the entrepreneurial spirit. I remember sitting on the judging panel of, what was then, the Glassex Awards. We had an entry in, I think, the Business Enterprise category; this MD entered his company on the premise that it had survived by entering a statutory arrangement with its creditors. It didn't make the short list but it did get a mention at the awards night. For the time that was real enterprise.

John Roper