

**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

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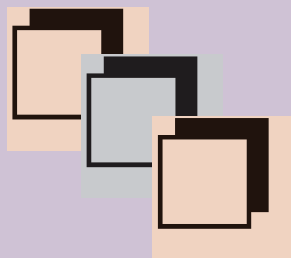
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# THE FABRICATOR

## Comment

The end of May and the window industry is pretty much back at work. When the government declared the lockdown it was astonishing how rapidly things came to a halt and it isn't the only industry to do that. There is a suggestion that even the government was shocked when manufacturing in general closed down. It hadn't included manufacturing in the list of businesses that were not allowed to operate and the economy took a huge hit overnight.

It all happened so fast. Tuesday I was having lunch in the city with a friend, we were the only ones in the restaurant. During lunch I got a phone call to tell me that the hall I hire for my tai chi class was being shut down, the next day all pubs, bars and restaurants were ordered to close followed by other retail outlets and by the following Tuesday Boris had grounded the lot of us.

The whole thing has caused huge tension for everyone. Ironically the younger people – the 'millennials' – seem far more frightened than the 60s+ generation. I can't help wondering if there is a new deference developing. The nonentities that pass for cabinet ministers these days, and who, nightly, give us instructions on how to behave, look barely old enough to be allowed out on their own. If they were my kids I'd probably ground them for insolence. The prime minister, on his rare appearances, is no better.

I live in a square and it has been interesting to watch comings and goings, strange cars arriving, parties? Our visitors came in our back gate and we sat in the sunshine at a suitable distance and talked. Probably against the rules but when a government advisor can drive 260 miles and back, plus taking a side trip, with impunity and for very dubious reasons, I really don't care. Maybe worth noting that another couple who drove up from London that same weekend were fined by Durham police.

Also, I think, worth noting is that as the Dominic Cummings story broke the BBC, surprisingly perhaps, gave airtime on the Today programme to Cummings wife which she used to justify their actions. On the other hand Newsnight lead, Emily Maitlis, has been rebuked by the BBC for spelling out what Cummings did. I also find it odd that a Times leader on the incident says that 'stating opinions as facts and ascribing those to everyone watching is presumptuous...'. Funny, one of the things that irritates me about politicians is when they do exactly that and nobody questions them.

Does the UK now have a vacancy for an independent public service broadcaster?

*John Roper*