

Comment

As I settled down to write this Comment, I looked in my diary to see that the 4-year anniversary of the start of lockdown was due to fall in March.

It's funny how the memory plays tricks on us – some people I have spoken to remember exactly when the first lockdown began while others put it a bit earlier or a bit later in the year. 26 March is the official date.

And of course, there are those of us, who believe events that we clearly remember as being two years ago, when investigated, find that it was four or five years ago...we have obliterated the months of no social contact from our minds – lots of us have lost a bit of time-awareness.

So to recap. Were locked up only to find that this industry was then catapulted into a boom caused by having a backlog of work to do and a market that wanted to improve its homes having been stuck in them for day, after day, after day, after day.

Then we had a supply chain issue – the boom caused stocks to run low no matter how hard UK suppliers worked; and the UK is so dependent on overseas for hardware for example, we couldn't make enough finished product to go around.

Then of course, there was the political shenanigans. And the coming and goings of Prime Ministers – one of which collapsed the economy.

And here we are – feeling a little sorry for ourselves (and not because Covid is still giving us nasty colds). So what is there to cheer us up.

Taxpayers Left Hanging On The Telephone By Inept HMRC Service

There is no cheer coming from the taxman if you actually want some advice in person – he simply can't come to the phone. HMRC's service levels are so appalling, honest taxpayers are being fined because nobody can resolve their issues while £2 billion in tax is not being collected each year – and criminals are getting away without coughing up as the taxman hasn't got the resources to prosecute them.

Worcestershire Brings The Sauce

Cheerfully, there is good money out there in the high-end market as The Residence Collection and The Worcestershire Door Company have shown as they added a bit of stylish sauce to a £7 million Cotswold housing development.

Watchdog To Tackle Rip-Off Fuel Prices

Sadly, we are all being ripped off by fuel suppliers. But cheerfully, the Competition & Markets Authority is going to put a stop to retailers not passing on the benefits when oil prices go down.

Good Reviews Are Good For Business

And happy, happy, happy – if you make your customers happy, they will give you a good review and you will win even more business. So, says one supplier on our News Pages (all the stories above are covered on Pages 5-6) who has demonstrable evidence.

Happy Lockdown Anniversary – keep smiling and remember it could be a whole lot worse.

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