

Comment

I have just come back from a long holiday...the longest holiday I've had in a very, very long time.

I needed it. Really needed it. I didn't know how much I needed it until I was half way through it. 15 days of not doing very much at all and getting a bit of autumn sunshine. Reading a book.

But I still did do some work. You've got to. Haven't you?

According to our lead News story this month on Page 5, most of you in business agree. Well you might not agree but you do it anyway – that's if you take a holiday at all.

One in five of us never take a holiday. We just feel that we can't afford to do so – we earn the money but we fear that if we take our eye off the ball for any length of time, the money will stop flowing and our customers will go elsewhere.

And those of us who do take a holiday, spend a great deal of time on the phone or checking e-mails and never really relaxing.

And we miss out on our families, not just on holiday but at weekends and at family get-togethers.

The things we do to make everybody happy, makes us sad. Probably makes them sad too.

Now I don't have a solution. It is thus. It has always been thus. And it is likely to remain thus. Until we die. (Few of us have any real plans to retire.) But as an advocate of wellbeing, I can only appeal to your common sense (and try to listen to it myself). Working every day and never taking a proper break is bad for you. It is bad for your families. Your business will not fall down without you. Make sure you have someone you can trust to do what you do when you are not there. If you keep going on like this, you are likely not to be there...and you know what I mean.

Holidays are important. Don't wait for Christmas.

Don't hesitate a boom is coming

Christmas – it seems like it is only just over the horizon. Where did this year go? The Installer and sister publication, The Fabricator have had a stonkingly good year (and that was not thanks to me not taking a holiday) but I know it has been tough on many businesses in this sector. The last days of the Tories made lots of customers wary of spending and the early days of Labour have not loosened the purse strings. Sir Kier's mob has told everyone that the country has no money whilst curiously promising to spend the no money and has painted a gloomy future despite plans for a massive building splurge. I really do think we will Get Britain Building but I think it will take time for a monumental momentum shift to kick in. However, all businesses in this and the wider construction sector should be gearing up for a boom time. Training. Employing. Getting key personnel in place (so you can have a bloody holiday and not worry about it). It is going to be a tough ride to get your own momentum going – but remember the Covid/post-Covid boom? People were flat out trying to make hay whilst the sun shined – the coming boom will make that look like a walk in the park. So be ready for a bit of sunshine – both the hay making kind and the stuff you get on your holidays.

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