



**Working Free says it understands it. Here's a selection of material from the serious Media – all except one within the last month. It's looking like a pattern.**

**FT Magazine – 20.11.22 – Gillian Tett – “Don't mess with the way this generation works.”**

“There is so much quiet rebellion in the working world – and executive alarm about it – that many companies have been more accommodating.” (... than, for example, JP Morgan Chase....and WFH.)

**Sunday Times – 21.8.22 – Louise Eccles, Laith Khalaf and Tom Calver**

**“ Working 9 to 5 then 5 to 9 – the new way to make a living.”** *2mn FTEs (Full time Employees) in the UK have second jobs. Numbers increasing all the time – now at its highest level for 23 years.*

**Sunday Times – 6.11.22 – Jill Treanor**

“Jobs on the line: BrItain's labour miracle falters. Unemployment has defied the doomsters after Covid but now companies are sharpening the axe. Redundances are very much on the minds of chief executives.”

**Sunday Times – 13.11.22 – David Smith**

**“How do we get Britain back to work? The labour market is more dysfunctional than at any time in recent history.”** *David Smith says “ Strikes are costing us millions but a much bigger enemy of growth is the ill-health and apathy that is keeping many would be employees at home.”*

**Daily Telegraph – 14.11.22 – Tom Rees**

**“Bosses gain the upper hand as recession looms.”** *Tom Rees writes – “Staff shortages have boosted wages, perks and bonuses ..... but what if the cost of living squeeze sparks a rush for the best jobs?”*

**Matthew Lynn of the Daily Telegraph observes, on 5.11.22**

**“Even if taxes must rise, a raid on entrepreneurship is madness.”** (Entrepreneurs and Start-Ups.)

**From the Guardian – 16.11.22**

**Britain is suffering worse economic performance than its rivals because of Brexit and a stark drop in the size of the workforce since the Covid pandemic, the Governor of the Bank of England has said.**

**FT – 26.11.22 – Camilla Cavendish**

**The Great Unretirement era is coming for Britain. Older affluent workers are leaving the labour force – employers and the government must get them back.** Many are retiring early not because they are too sick to work but because they are sick of working.

**The experts know what the questions are, but the answers seem to be elusive – and practical action – by anyone – not to be seen anywhere.**

Most thought that post Covid unemployment would surge – and it didn't. Most did not anticipate the high volume of no-shows back at work. No-one seems to know what the exact absentee number is – and go for various numbers between 400k and 1mn. No-one seems to know exactly how this is segmented; nor exactly what ill-health means; nor what inactive means; nor what is going to happen next; nor what the timing is going to be.

When this dust settles a bit, what we will have is a growing number of “workers” who fall back – willingly and/or advisedly – partly or not at all – on their own personal resources – which might be money – but not when it runs out – and leaves them to their own personal abilities, ingenuity and drive to find solutions.

This is what Working Free does. The best answers are often the oldest.

*In 1859, Samuel Smiles published "Self Help", [www.workingfree.co.uk/echoes-samuel-smiles-1812-1904/](http://www.workingfree.co.uk/echoes-samuel-smiles-1812-1904/) It was a massive best-seller in its day. It told multiple stories of those – mostly ordinary – individuals who came to power the Industrial Revolution. What they had in common was desire, persistence – and being able to find out how to do it.*

*(Most of the statistical data in this overall area comes from the ONS Employment Statistics and, probably, the best interpretations come from [www.Employment-Studies.co.uk](http://www.Employment-Studies.co.uk) )*



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