



LEABROOKS WITTER



December 24th, 2020

The Artists' Forum at Leabrooks Arts Complex. Keeping in Touch

Poem by Spike Milligan ' Smile'

Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the flu

When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too

I walked around the corner
And someone saw me grin

When he smiled I realised
I had passed it on to him

I thought about the smile
And then realised its worth

A single smile like mine
Could travel round the earth

So if you feel a smile begin
Don't leave it undetected

Start an epidemic
And get the world infected.



It is, perhaps, inappropriate for us to wish you a Merry Christmas but we should like to wish you a Happy Christmas, a time of peace, rest and simple pleasures in which you can momentarily pause and think of other things than the hot topics of recent months.

I'm writing this three days after the shortest day, the Winter Solstice, when the hours of daylight were at their lowest, the news was particularly grim and Jupiter and Saturn were aligned for the first time in 800 years. But the next day there were extra minutes of daylight which will expand into Spring, there was a glimmer of something a little more positive in the news and I believe that the appearance of those special planets has, in the past, brought universal hope; I can't claim that that's the case this time around but tomorrow, two thousand and twenty years later, a lot of people are still celebrating that event!

We do have reason to celebrate for other reasons too: the fact that artists and makers have worked hard to rise above the crushing pressures of Lock downs, etc. They have variously engaged with commissions, competitions, exhibitions – online and otherwise-installations, photo shoots, (some remarkable puddles in this area), videos and experimental work. All of this endeavour has been marked by determination and good humour.

You're all amazing! Keep on keeping on and we wish you all the best in 2021.

Carol and John



Winter flowering clematis



Cyclamen
from the garden at Leabrooks Arts Complex today



Pine Cone



Chinese Lantern seed