



# LEABROOKS WITTER



September 1st 2021

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

### Teamwork

All businesses depend on effective team work and Leabrooks Arts Complex is no different. Our team consists of John, who is the Front of House and framer, myself, who could be described as the Back of House and dabbling dauber, thirty-five brilliant artists with enviable talent, James, our artistic gardener and his hard working mate, Pete. We're all committed to promoting art/the arts in the community, selling quality work and offering a space for debate, discussion and just general talk about a subject which is important to us all. The team offers support and encouragement to its members and welcomes those who would like to join it; we offer friendship, advice when required and a range of opportunities. Art, for us, is a collaborative enterprise not a competitive race to the economic finishing line; there are benefits to be had in working with and supporting other artists and galleries – an opportunity for learning..

One of the issues which we need to address together is that of spam emails and general attempts to defraud artists of their rightful income. This has become a small industry during the pandemic, some strategies inspiring laughter but most causing distress. John has put together some advice regarding spam emails and in later Witters we'll consider other areas in which artists should be wary. On a more cheerful note, we'd like to invite you to join us at our September Celebrations, beginning with the Artists' Forum on the 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2021, when you can meet up safely with old and new friends. The winner of the Phoenix Prize will also be announced at the Artists' Forum meeting. (See below.)

CBJ

### Inviting you to September Celebrations

- The first Artists' Forum in two years will be held on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 from 10.30 am until 1 pm. (It was to have been held on the 4<sup>th</sup> September but had to be postponed due to family commitments.) From 10.30 until 11am there will be time for a chat, coffee/tea and cake but then it's time for business, (of an enjoyable kind).

You'll be able to view Martin Davis's impressive exhibition, 'A Portrait of the Artist' which is a fascinating insight into his inspiration and development as an artist.

- Martin will hold a Meet the Artist event on the afternoon of the Artists' Forum. You, your family, friends and art lovers are all invited. Another similar event later in September..
- Our Coffee and Cake event for Macmillan Cancer Support will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.



### What's the best way to avoid spam emails?

*Information researched by John*

Use free email services that include spam filtering. Never click on links in a spam email; in some cases, clicking will result in you confirming to the spammer that the email address is valid and the user is likely to click on links thus making you a prime target for more spam and phishing attacks.

### What scams do fraudsters use?

'Phishing' and 'vishing' are the two main types of scams criminals will use to try to gain access to your personal details. They can then use these details to sign in to your online account, steal information and potentially take your money.

'Phishing' is any activity designed to trick you into giving out your personal details such as usernames and passwords - this is normally done by email.

'Vishing' is done over the phone when criminals impersonate a person or business and try to get you to provide your personal details.

### How to spot a scam

Phishing and vishing scams can happen at any time and people can be targeted around payment dates. Here are some top tips to spot them.

Phishing emails are often sent in bulk and are unlikely to contain both your first and last name; they commonly start: 'Dear'. Check the quality of the communication - misspelling, poor punctuation and bad grammar are common signs of bogus emails or text messages.

Fraudsters will try to create a sense of urgency as a way of pressuring you in to giving your personal details. For example, they'll say things like 'failure to respond in 24 hours will result in your account being closed'.

### How to avoid these scams. Here are some tips to help you stay safe:

Keep an eye out for any emails, phone calls or SMS messages you think are suspicious, especially at the time you're expecting a payment or delivery. You shouldn't post messages online that let people know you're getting your any finance payment soon; this could make you a target for fraudsters.

Always ensure that you're using a secure website when submitting sensitive information online and don't post personal info on social media pages.

Avoid logging in to your finance account on public networks or computers.

If you receive a phone call that you're suspicious about, don't feel pressured in to giving the requested details just hang up. Call on a number you know is genuine from their contact page using a different phone line.



Remember to share your experience of scams and other fraudulent activities with colleagues; it helps everyone.