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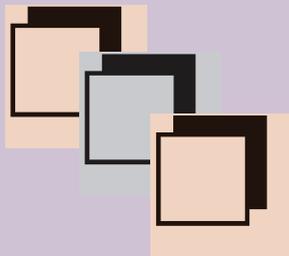
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The Fabricator is published in the UK by Profinder Media Ltd.
Opinions expressed in The Fabricator are those of the contributors and do not represent editorial policy. The Fabricator accepts payment for colour pictures. Subscription rates: UK £45; rest of EU £60; worldwide £105

The Fabricator Vol 18 No 5
ISSN: 1752-2145

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THE FABRICATOR

Comment

Before I start writing these columns I always take a look at what I wrote last year. May 21 was all about corruption: government corruption mostly but a bit of corporate thrown in as well. As far as the conservatives are concerned they are still here and still corrupt. This time it is less about handing fat contracts to their chums more about simple law breaking. Or at least rule breaking though, curiously, last year I was writing about corruption being within 'the rules'.

It almost seems a bore to keep going on about partygate. But I guess that's what they are hoping for. They keep chucking out tasty distractions: Priti Patel sending migrants to Rwanda – a bit of synergy there, the country doesn't have a great human rights record and the totalitarian president is seemingly pretty corrupt. No wonder Priti felt at home signing the contract. The home office civil servants were less than happy though and made her sign off the deal personally. As that fades from the news the conservatives chums at *The Mail* threw in a bit of titillation, suggesting that Angela Rayner had tried to distract Johnson during PMQs. You all know the story, I'm not going there.

And when all of the distractions are gone and Johnson has stopped trying to be the great leader in someone else's war, they will still be an incompetent and corrupt bunch.

But what am I thinking? Our big distraction this month is the FIT Show. The 2019 event was the last before lockdown and the uncertainty that followed caused FIT to be announced and cancelled over the next couple of years.

I think we all started 2022 with a degree of trepidation; looking over our shoulders, expecting to be locked up again. Gradually a feeling of normality began to creep in. We have been out to see clients, people, not just Zoom images. Companies are holding press conferences again, in person, not on Zoom. The FIT Show is actually happening to reinforce the feeling and I detect a great deal of enthusiasm. Though it may be that the industry is just looking for a party – this time one that doesn't break any rules. At least, not before it is well under way!

In this issue we have covered a selection of exhibitors and in the centre you will find a site map to help plan your visit.

The Fabricator and our sister publication *The Installer* are hosting a coffee area and you will be able to see and discuss our online news sites and discover what they and our twice weekly news letters can do to help your business.

John Roper

