

Welcome to this audio description of Proud, presented by Metro Charity and Al Hill.

This installation is a collaboration between Metro Charity and local queer textile artist Al Hill. Metro Charity provides health, community and youth services across London and the South East, with its roots in Greenwich.

Working with the community of Metro Charity, Al Hill ran workshops over Zoom, showing participants how you can turn old fabric scraps or clothing into string and then plaits for the installation. The piece represents the diversity of the LGBT+ community, with each plait made with love and care from each person, the different personalities radiate throughout each strand.

Throughout these times, community spaces online have been especially important for queer people. Charities like Metro Charity have helped provide this throughout their various programmes. In a time where many feel isolated, the strands of the plaits represent the ties that bond us as a community. As a movement, it is important that we are always able to branch out to each other.

Two tall trees stand approximately 7 metres apart. The trees are in full foliage, with thick trunks and long branches, that begin just above head height. The trees stand just in front of the Dial Arch pub - the arched entrance to the pub, with its Roman-numeral clockface, in the centre of the space between the trees. Facing the trees, again at the central point between them, there's a large cannon, part of the Royal Arsenal's weaponry on public display.

The numerous plaits created by the Proud participants, have been tied together to form one long strand, approximately 400 metres in length. This collective strand has been wrapped around the two tree trunks, creating a net, or web effect that fills the space in between, starting at just below the lower branches of the trees and finishing at ground level. In between the zig-zagging lines of the net there are narrow gaps that offer a view of the archway beyond.

The net of combined plaits presents a multitude of colour, texture and patterns that represent the diverse experience of the individual participants.

For more information on Al Hill visit their website: al-hill.com.

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