

The installation in the central atrium takes the form of a vast music box. At the centre of a 15-sided hand-painted wooden platform, a poignant spoken word recitation emanates from a speaker embedded in a gold-leafed tree. It is a recording of Patrick, a long-term inpatient at Bethlem Hospital, captured by Brimfield as part of a research residency at the National Psychosis Unit and Kings College Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience. A circle of 15 chairs is gathered around the sculpture, each one individually designed and built by individual chapters of UK Men's Sheds and Men's Shed Cymru in close collaboration with Brimfield, variously incorporating whittling, marquetry, mosaic, woodturning, patchwork and stained glass making. A speaker is built into each chair, relaying parts of a complex multi-channel composition, performed by members of Harrow-based More Than Just a Choir. The writing process was guided by an extensive series of songwriting workshops across the UK lead by the artists, with diverse groups including inmates at HMP Parc, Kings College researchers and the Maudlsey Hospital choir. Brimfield's faithful reproductions of the idiosyncratic HQ signs made by participating Men's Shed groups appear throughout the space.

The sculpture is accompanied by a large wall piece in the form of a notional trade union banner, celebrating the collective creativity of a network of over 100 community members participating in the making of STAND.

STAND (UNITY IS POWER)
Vinyl wall treatment
Dimensions variable

