

## Ringers Remembered picture finds a home



*'Ringers Remembered' by Helen Chester, framed with the accompanying material*

Readers will remember this picture (entitled *Ringers Remembered*), which featured on the front page of *The Ringing World* of 12th April 2019 (No.5633). It was commissioned by the Salisbury Guild and painted by Westbury artist Helen Chester, to appear on the front cover of our Great War Memorial Booklet. The actual picture first appeared in public at the Guild Festival in May 2019, since when it has been 'on tour'; visiting a branch event in all eight of our branches, as well as other events.

Having explored a number of possible venues for displaying the picture more permanently, it was the Trustees of the Rifles Berkshire and Wiltshire Museum ('The Wardrobe'), in the Cathedral Close, Salisbury (<https://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/>) who made the offer that the Guild has accepted. (Amongst the ringers commemorated in the picture are three soldiers from the Royal Berkshire Regiment and sixteen from the Wiltshire Regiment (including two actual likenesses).) I am particularly happy that the picture will be displayed in our Cathedral city. Mr Tony Field, Trust Manager and Curator said: "The Trustees feel that, given the links to Wiltshire Regiment soldiers, and the specific link to the two named in the front ranks, it is of interest and would not look out of place in The Wardrobe. There is no objection to your request that it might be displayed for easy access for public viewing (specifically in the ground floor hallway)".

Ownership of the picture will remain with the Guild, and the Guild may, by arrangement, remove it for a specific event. The Trust does not guarantee to display the picture in The Wardrobe in perpetuity, therefore it will be displayed for a set period of time, renewable by mutual consent (initially two years).

In December 2019 the picture was returned to Helen to be preserved, framed and for the final touches to be added. The picture should be hung in the Museum this Spring and I hope to arrange a modest event at the Museum soon after so that Guild members can, with the Bishop of Salisbury and Helen present, welcome the picture to its new home. If you are in Salisbury I urge you to visit the Museum and see the picture.

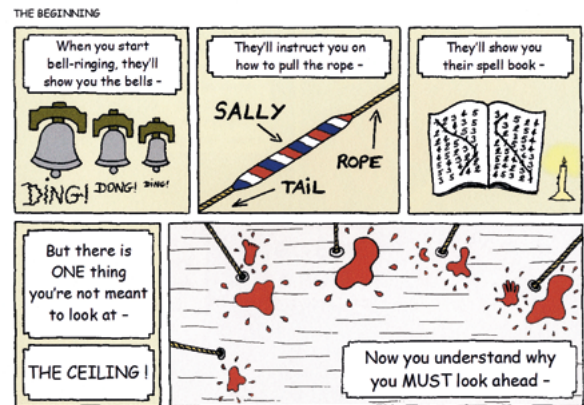
ROBERT WELLEN

### COMPLAINTS HELPLINE

If you need help in dealing with a complaint about your bells, contact David Mattingley by e-mail (preferable) at

**complaints@cccbr.org.uk**  
or phone **07503 152223**

## A spell book, and a box to look silly



This is the story of a rather extraordinary young woman who learnt to ring in the short time she was in Scotland. Christelle came across from Normandy to Scotland as a languages assistant. One of our ringers, Ron Oliver, who was a colleague at the school where she worked and has a certain cunning in attracting new ringers, brought her along to a practice.

I taught her to handle a bell and she took to it with enthusiasm. Until recently, there was no full circle ringing in France and certainly nowhere near Normandy, so this was a totally new experience for her.

While she was here she developed a real interest in Scottish culture and took this back to Normandy. Her wedding to Eric in 2012, although typically French, also had a strong Scottish theme, complete with kilt and the works of course!

She was able to laugh at her initial attempts to handle a bell but soon mastered it. What we didn't know about was her artistic talent and tremendous sense of humour. She combined both in a series of cartoons that she drew for us. What astonished me was her ability to express her sense of humour in a second language. Not only that, but she had us all laughing out loud at her seeing the funny side of learning to ring. Such perceptiveness and how she could laugh at herself! Everyone I have come across, particularly learners and teachers, has split their sides laughing at the way she pokes fun at both ringing and Scottish culture.

She is delighted to let us sell these cartoons to raise money for our Bells ApPEAL at St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee. We are trying to raise £40,000 to fit two new trebles and augment the ring to a ten. As a fairly heavy ring of eight they pose problems for learners and the new trebles would allow us to ring a nicer-sounding and lighter six, as well as stretching the more experienced ringers with methods on ten.

I have had the cartoons printed in A4 'perfect bound' book form and as packs of 10 different greetings cards and envelopes. We are pricing the books at £10 and the packs of 10 cards at £6. Postage at cost (£2 – £3 maximum) but I would send postage free for bulk purchase (e.g. 4+ books or 5+ packs of cards). Get in touch to check. Do please support our appeal!

**dundee@sacr.org** or Stephen Elwell-Sutton 07827 812524.

STEPHEN ELWELL-SUTTON

