

Die Glockenspieler



Susanne

Uwe

Conny

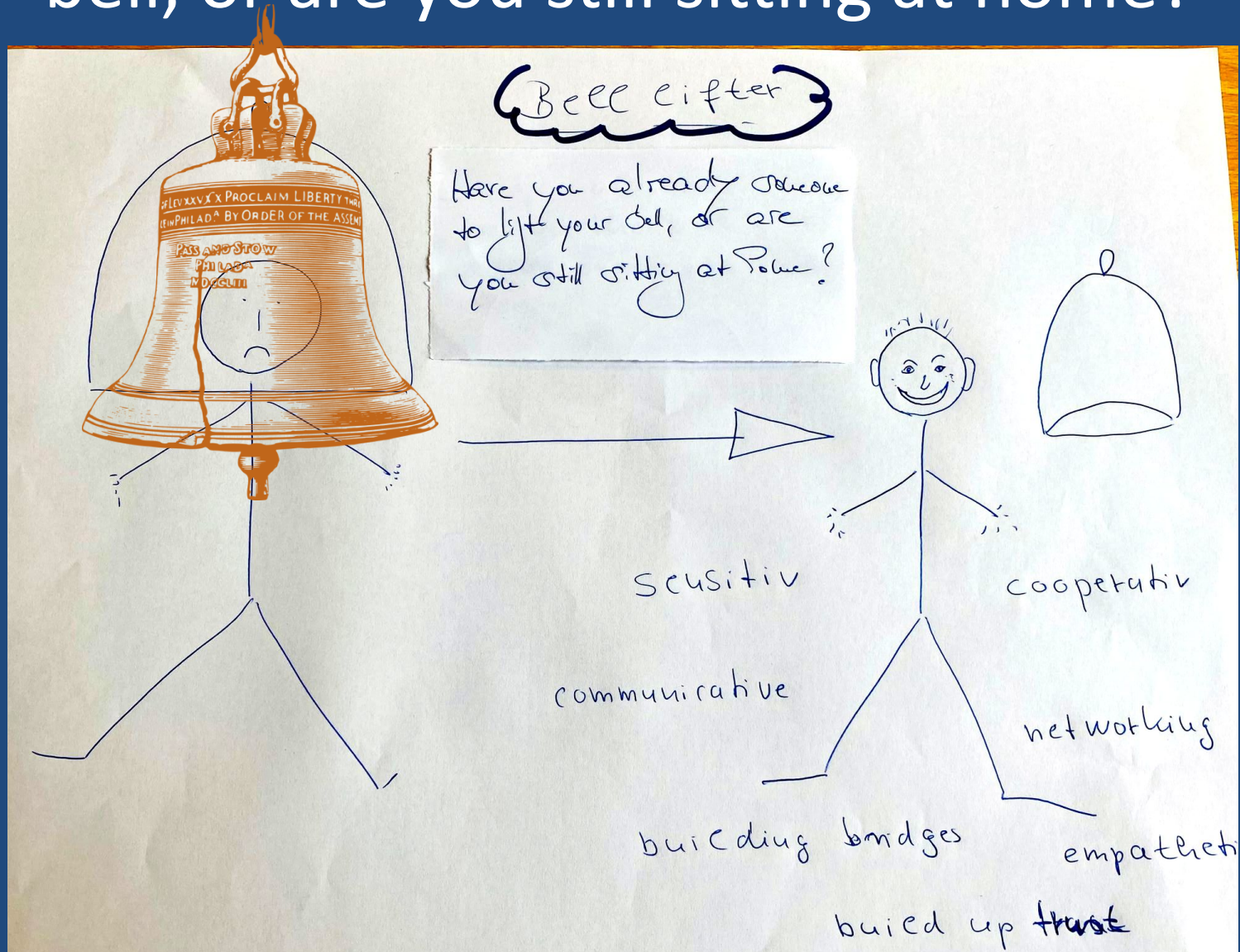
Bernd

Bine

Karin

Dorothe

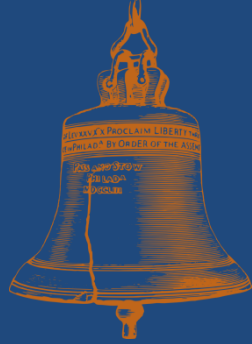
Have you already got someone to lift your bell, or are you still sitting at home?



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In a small town in the heart of Germany, life went on with a strange mixture of freedom and restriction. While most residents enjoyed the freedom to explore and experience the world, a few lived under an invisible bell. This bell, invisible to the eye, created an invisible barrier that prevented them from venturing out and experiencing new things. This is the story of their struggle and their liberation.



The Bell People

The bell trapped a select group of the city's inhabitants in a life of routine and familiarity. They longed to break free from the bell's oppressive hold, to see new places, smell new scents, hear new sounds and make new memories. But they didn't know where to start, or how to break through the invisible barrier that held them back.



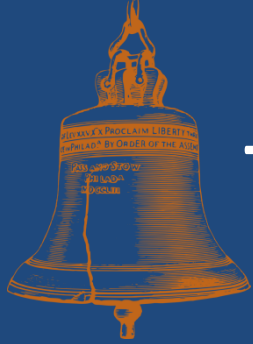
Erna's longing

Erna was 72 years old and had spent her whole life under the bell. She had raised her children, tended her garden and watched the seasons pass, each one merging into the next. But Erna had a dream. She wanted to visit the new museum in Kassel, just 50 kilometres away. Despite her desire, she was paralysed by fear. She didn't know where to start or how to plan the trip. The bell seemed too thick, too impenetrable.



Konrad's vision

Konrad was 56 and visually impaired. His world was already a challenge, but the bell made it feel even smaller. He sensed that the bell had cracks, subtle hints that escape might be possible. He longed for new experiences, to feel the texture of unfamiliar places and hear the sounds of busy streets far beyond his city. But like Erna, he didn't know how to start.



The bell lifter: Martina

Martina, 59, was different. She was a bell-ringer, a role for which she had been trained through the German National Voluntary Service. Sensitive and well-connected, Martina had a knack for building trust and listening deeply to others. She had experience of working with people from all walks of life and understood their individual needs and fears. Martina knew about a wide range of mobility opportunities and activities - whether it was a walk in the woods, a visit to a museum, a trip to the seaside or even an adventure abroad. She was a bridge builder, ready to help others get out of their bells.



Breaking free

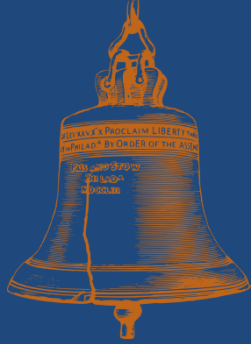
Martina's training programme, supported by the German National Voluntary Service, had expanded its portfolio and now offered comprehensive training for aspiring bell lifters. Large companies involved in social projects as part of their CSR strategy, as well as charities and private donors, supported these efforts. The "No One Should Live with a Bell" fundraising programme provided funds to train bell lifters and help those who wanted to break free.



Meeting the bell people

Martina met Erna at a local church function. Erna, frail but vivacious, confided in Martina her dream of visiting the museum in Kassel. Martina listened attentively and offered words of encouragement. She explained how they could plan the trip together, addressing each of Erna's fears step by step. With Martina's support, Erna began to feel a glimmer of hope.

Konrad met Martina at a sports club meeting. Intrigued by her title as a bell-lifter, he shared his longing for new experiences. Recognising his determination, Martina assured him that they could find ways to overcome his visual impairment. She spoke of tactile museums, guided tours and sensory experiences designed for the visually impaired. For the first time, Konrad felt that his dreams were within reach.



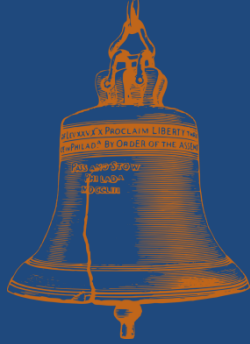
A community effort

Martina's work went beyond individual encounters. She worked with social services, sports clubs, food banks, charities and even supermarkets to identify and support people living under the bell. Their efforts were part of a wider community initiative to help people break free from their invisible barriers.



A new dawn

As more and more people shed their bells, the city began to change. Erna visited the museum in Kassel, marvelling at the art and history that had been out of reach for so long. Konrad explored new places, feeling the textures and hearing the sounds of a world he had only imagined. The city, once a place of mixed freedom and restriction, began to experience a renaissance of exploration and connection.



And now ...

Martina, the bell lifter, became a symbol of hope and possibility. Her work reminded everyone that with empathy, support and a little courage, it was possible to break free from the bells that imprisoned them. The invisible barriers that had once seemed insurmountable began to crumble, one person at a time. And those who were freed embraced a future full of new experiences and endless possibilities.

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