

# Biographical Record

## **HILDA GWENDOLINE MAY SNOWDEN (1916 – 2002)**

Represented the Essex Association on the Central Council  
from 1945 -1971 and attended 19 meetings

She was born on March 25<sup>th</sup> 1916 at Halstead in Essex, where she learned to ring in January 1930.

Her first peal, Plain Bob Minor, was at Gestingthorpe on May 7<sup>th</sup> 1932.

She became a member of the Royal Society of Cumberland Youths in 1933.

She was renowned and remembered for her ability to ring heavy bells. For her 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday she turned in the tenor at Bocking to a peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, which she also conducted. At 23 she was the youngest lady, at that time, to turn in a tenor of over a ton, at Great Dunmow.

She rang in the first peal of Spliced Surprise by an Essex band in 1939.

She rang the 10<sup>th</sup> at Exeter Cathedral and the 6<sup>th</sup> at Sherborne to peals.

She served as secretary for the Northern Division of the Essex Association.

She was a Life Vice-President of the Essex Association from 1959.

She was responsible for the restoration of the bells at Halstead.

She was responsible for the augmentation of the bells at Gosfield and she taught a band there from scratch so that they could ring the bells at the dedication.

Her working life was spent at Courtaulds, first as a pharmacist and later as a catering manager.

She died on December 18<sup>th</sup> 2002 and her funeral was held at Gosfield on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

