

# Biographical Record

## **Kenneth ARTHUR (1916 - 2012)**

Represented the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association on the Central Council from 1960 - 1977 and attended 17 meetings

Kenneth Arthur was born at Newcastle upon Tyne on 2nd August 1916. He learned to ring on the glorious bells at Fenham in Newcastle in December 1932 when he was taught to ring by John Anderson. Between 1937 and 1938 he rang at St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. For the rest of his life he was a member of the band at Ss James and Basil, Fenham, holding many of the offices in the tower.

His first peal, Plain Bob Major, took place at St. Aidan's Blackhill, County Durham on February 2nd 1935. He conducted some of his tower bell peals, including the first peal of Surprise at Bamburgh (the most northerly church bells in England); the first peal of St. Clements Bob Triples for the Durham & Newcastle DA and a peal of Erin Triples on the 50th anniversary of the first peal in the method. He rang in the first peals of Cambridge and Yorkshire Surprise Royal at Newcastle Cathedral and in the first peals of four Spliced Surprise Major in Northumberland and Durham. He rang 227 peals for the Durham & Newcastle Association.

Kenneth was the official instructor in bell ringing to the Northumberland County Education Committee from 1959-1960. He was the Secretary of the Northern District of the D&N 1936-1939, Vice-President of the Northern District 1948-1956, Association President 1956-1959 and Ringing Master 1960-1970. He was a trustee and auditor 1971-1989 and he was a steward for the Association until 2001.

He was a civil servant, working as an excise officer. During World War II when he was in the RAF he was stationed in London, where he became a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

In addition to ringing at Fenham, he served the church as a churchwarden.

He died, aged 95, on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012 and his funeral took place on March 2nd at St James and St. Basil, Fenham.

*Obituary appeared in The Ringing World on page 380 in 2012*

