

In the past:

1850: 'In the Church-yard are two large yew-trees: one, measuring seventeen feet eleven inches, at four feet from the ground; and the other, seventeen feet two inches at three feet, and eighteen feet at four feet from the ground'. Brayley's *Topographical history of Surrey Vol 4*

1875: 'Two yews, one of enormous girth'. *The Penny Post*

1880: In a paper read to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society on December 15th, Straker recorded 2 yews, the first, WNW, with a girth of 19' 9" at 5' and an estimated age of about 900 years, and the second, WSW, with a girth of 23' at 5' and an estimated age of 1000 years.

1911: 'At the western end of the churchyard are two fine yew trees'. *A History of the County of Surrey*

1936: 'two grand yews.....keeping watch for hundreds of years'. *The King's England*

Some time between 1936 and 2001 Horley lost one of its large yews. This stump, with a girth of 21' 7" at 2', is all that remains. It grew approximately 10 metres from the surviving tree.



Feb 17th 2001

The living yew (Straker's 1000 year old tree) is now in two pieces, undoubtedly fragments of an ancient split tree. The fragment on the north side (A) is a solid looking trunk almost hidden behind ivy and leaning before straightening. Fragment (B) is far older in appearance, consisting of a piece of hollowed out shell, with internal stems joined to the main growth. Girth around both fragments at the ground was 24' 5" while (B), complete with its internal stems, had a girth of about 17'.

