

The Little Bookham Yew has been noted on many occasions in the past.

1865: *A handbook for travellers in Surrey, Hampshire, and the Isle of Wight* by Richard John King, and John Murray: 'In the churchyard is a very fine old yew'.

1875: *Penny Post*: 'eighteen feet in circumference four feet from the ground'.

1903: *Cox's Little Guides*: 'One of the fine old yew trees for which Surrey is famous'.

1911: *The History of Surrey*: 'A fine yew tree of great age'.

1936: '...a gnarled yew, 24' round, said by authorities at Kew to be 900 years old' *The King's England*.

1958 '...an iron seat around it and a 5' high railing, above that height the railing inclines forwards and is 9' high at the top'. A break in the railings enabled L.G. to 'creep through' and measure the tree as 19' 6" at 3'. He goes on to say that its girth may have been nearer 23' or 24' at the base 'before a part of the trunk on the west side was broken away many years ago'. He added that it was not 'in vigorous growth'.

Mr Giltrow for Swanton

1999: I recorded a male yew flourishing male yew growing inside a high and rather forbidding octagonal fence. It is very split yet supported considerable growth on its many branches. Outer and inner sections fuse to form its substantial main branch. There were two pieces only tenuously linked to the tree. High in the branches were signs of metal clamps, no doubt to help prevent further separation.



2013: Peter Norton's photos of the yew are seen below. He observed that the east side of the tree will eventually collapse leaving an even smaller girthed tree. He also recorded a millennium yew on the churchyard perimeter, and on the NE/SW pathway leading to the old manor a yew that may date from the Victorian era.





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