

NINFIELD

St Mary the Virgin

Diocese of Chichester

TQ7048212290



The earliest stories in which this yew plays a part date back to 1695. The postcard in the centre shows a huge old sapwood stem (A) that is now gone. It would have enclosed many of the fragments we see now, which would have been internal growth, now made external. It provides a fascinating insight into how a yew tree can change over time. In 1999 it appears as two fragment trees which are tenuously linked together above the ground. It was growing vigorously and presented a fine canopy. In 1994 Owen Johnson recorded it as 12m tall with a diameter of 169 cm at the ground (*Sussex Tree Book*). He described it as 'trunks, diverging from the base, are all so hollow that the tree resembles a kind of giant basket'. In 1999 I recorded a girth of 17' 8" at the ground, allowing the tape to ride above the roots, and 20' 10" at 3'.