

The 1909 *Little Guides to Monmouthshire* reported 'two fine old yews' in Penrhos churchyard. When J.Daryll Evans visited in 1987 he noted 3 yews, but only this one appeared to be of great age. In his *Churchyard Yews of Gwent* he described it as 'hollow, the trunk open along one side and enclosing new stems', and with a girth of 668cm (21' 11") at 1m.



The male yew grows SSW of the church. In 1999 we found layers of barbed wire around its bole to discourage climbing on a tree which already leaned precariously. A section of old sapwood shell, seen at A in 1999, would at one time have completely enclosed B, an internal stem, providing evidence that this was once a larger girthed yew. By 2005 most of the sapwood (A) had gone, leaving what was an internal stem on the outside of the tree. In 1999 I recorded a girth of 18' 2" at its narrowest close to the ground.

The Penrhos Yew in 2005 - Geoff Garlick



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