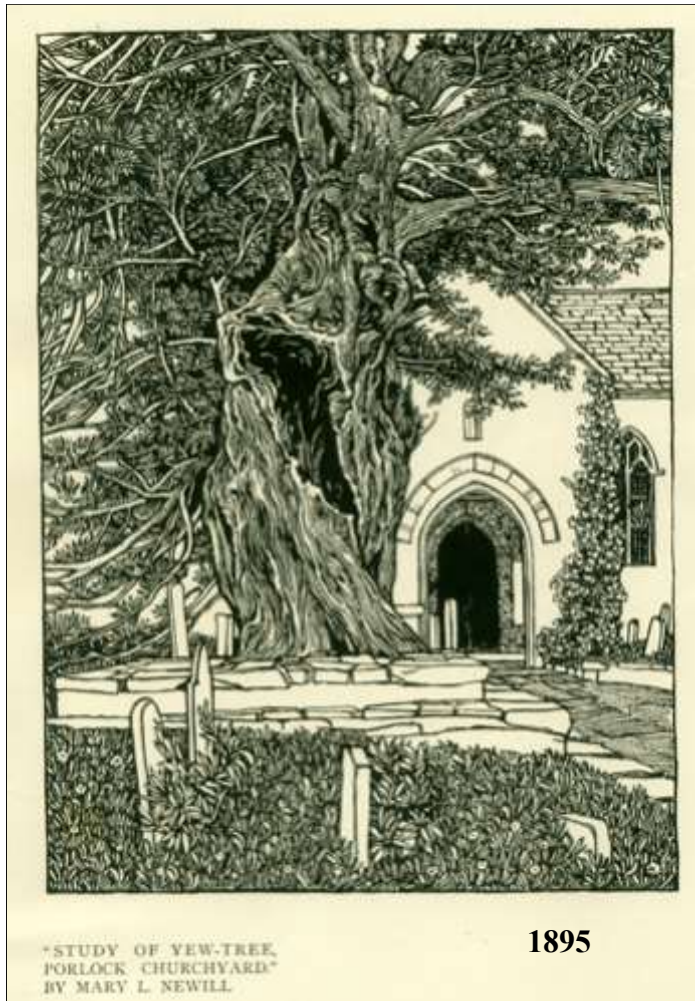


1830: *History of the hundred of Carhampton* by James Savage recorded 'a large and venerable yew tree standing near the cross, casting its shade around to a considerable distance'.

1856: *A Handbook for Travellers in Wiltshire, Dorsetshire and Somerset* by John Murray noted that the venerable yew-tree was 'surrounded by a seat'.



By the time of my first visit in February 2000 little of the tree remained (below left). The stone seat, in the form of 3 steps, was now topped with a circular wall, presumably built to further protect the tree. Some of the stones from this wall now lay among the ivy on the steps, having been displaced by the leaning tree. Only these old postcards show what a formidable yew this once was and it does seem that everything



possible is being done to allow it live on.

For now it is possible to find only one very narrow band of live wood which winds its way to the top and supports a small amount of growth. This had thickened considerably by 2008 (right).



The improvement between 2008 and 2016 is even more dramatic.



A well designed prop has been added to help support the additional weight of its fast expanding canopy.



In 2016 a 2nd yew was recorded here growing on the north side of the church. It is a large two stemmed male that has been kept trim. A girth of 13' 6" was recorded.

