SURREY - churchyard sites with younger yews

CHELSHAM  St Leonard  TQ389591  19/12/1999  Tim Hills
*The King’s England* (Mee c1940) reported that in 1746 the 3 fine yews in the churchyard were ‘planted by the rector and the schoolmaster’. I have been unable to locate the source of this information, but the girths recorded in 1880 are what might be expected of 134 year old yews. They were measured by Straker as follows: SSW 6' at 5', SE 7' 3" at 5' and ESE 4' 6" at 5'.
In 1912 *The History of the County of Surrey* noted a “fine yew of great age” on its eastern side.
In 1994 Gwyneth Fookes remeasured the three yews as follows: SSW 8' at 5', SE 13' 3" at 3' and ESE 12' 6" at 3'.
In 1999 I recorded two yews as follows and assume that the tree SSW has been removed. The yew closest to the church and ESE was 13' at 3'. It was not hollow, grew particularly straight and had a large dead section. The yew SE had a girth of 12' at 2'.

CHIDDINGFOLD  St Mary  SU960354  2006
The yew grows to the west of the 13th century church. It is a fine looking healthy yew with a girth of about 9', threatened with felling to enable the church to be extended.

FARNHAM  St Andrew  SU838467  12/7/2000  Tim Hills
The Penny Post in 1875 referred to a yew at this site, without adding further details. The only yew here is a fine specimen WSW of the church, with a girth of 10' 10" at 5'. It has a fluted bole of 8' with a fine spread of branches all around and some dipping over graves and across the path.

FRENSHAM  St Mary the Virgin  SU84194146  17/3/2008  Owen Johnson
The original building was dedicated in 1239, having been moved from low-lying land nearby. The yew is multi-stemmed but decayed, with hollowing trunk and branches. It is Ancient Tree Hunt number 6778. Girth 402cm or 13’ 2” at 1'.
The Churchyard Yew and Immortality (Vaughan Cornish 1946) noted that ‘south of the church is a tree older than the church’. A pair of yews grow in this position, both estimated at 100/150 years at the most. Since the church is a 19th century building, on the site of an older church, one of these could well be the tree Cornish was told about.

GUILDFORD HILL CEMETERY  SU990489  9/3/2005  Tim Hills
I had been told of an ‘old, old yew, 18’ girth’ with an ancient trackway leading to it. There was no sign of an old tree in this cemetery.

LALEHAM  All Saints  TQ052689  19/12/1999  Tim Hills
Two fine tall yews grow either side of the path approaching the church. The male to the left measured 9’ 3” at 3’, it has a very fluted and clean bole. The female on the right measured 7’ 8” at 3’. Twiggy growth began at 5’ and was visible high into the tree.

LINGFIELD  St Peter and St Paul  Robert Burrows  2008
There are a number of fine yews surrounding the church. To the south west of the church tower, there is a very large ivy clad yew standing in a garden adjacent the church boundary. It is probably twice as large as the largest yew in the churchyard. To the south of the Church in another neighbouring garden is a further good sized yew. 307 (10ft at 150cm)

OXTED  St Mary the Virgin  TQ391530  17/2/2001  Tim Hills
The Penny Post of 1875 described the ancient church with a ‘15th century porch that is sheltered by a magnificent yew in front of the old manor house’. Here was a young female only, growing SW of the church, with a girth of 10’ 7” at 3’. Its roots spread downwards to the path.
**PYRFORD**  St Nicholas   TQ040582   3/4/2004   Tim Hills
Not ancient, as in some reports, nonetheless a fine male tree NNW of the church. 4 large branches facing the church have been removed and new growth surrounds the wounds. A branch crossing the path is propped. Bark particularly flaky and coloured. Girth 9'7" at 2'.

**WOTTON**  St John the Evangelist   TQ126480   16/2/2001   Tim Hills
Lowe (1890) recorded 2 yews with girths of 18' and 22'. A winter photograph of the churchyard showed that there were no yews here in 1936 – or in 2001.