

When visiting this churchyard I was told that in the 1760s the yew was considered to be dead and that another was planted in its place. The new tree apparently did not last long, while the old yew recovered and continues to thrive.

The February 1846 *Illustrated London News* in an article on Tangmere Church referred to an illustration of 'one of its patriarchal denizens - a yew tree of extraordinary age and size'.

The 1848 *Topographical Dictionary of England* noted the 'venerable yew-tree, 20 feet in girth at the height of a yard from the ground'.



This fine healthy female, seen above in 1999, grows south of the church. A leaning section, supported with chains, provides the main branch. This tree is a good example of new wood being laid down on the inside surface, rather than the outside of the yew.

The photographs below were taken by Peter Norton in 2011





Girth:

1848: 20' at 3'

1988: 24' 8" at 3'; 24' 1" at 4' - letter to David Bellamy

1997: 12m tall x 232 cm diameter at 1.5m - Owen Johnson *The Sussex Tree Book*

1999: 24' 7" at 3'; 24' 1" at 5' - Tim Hills

2011: 26' 6" at 1'; 25' at 2' and 24' 4" at 3' from the ground. At a height of 3', four 4 nails had been hammered in around the tree. Below this height the recordings are exaggerated by distorted trunk growth - Peter Norton