

Ancient Yew Group`s New 2011 Website www.ancient-yew.org

by Tim Hills

Contained within our new look website are articles and information that take us a step closer to understanding and protecting our oldest trees.

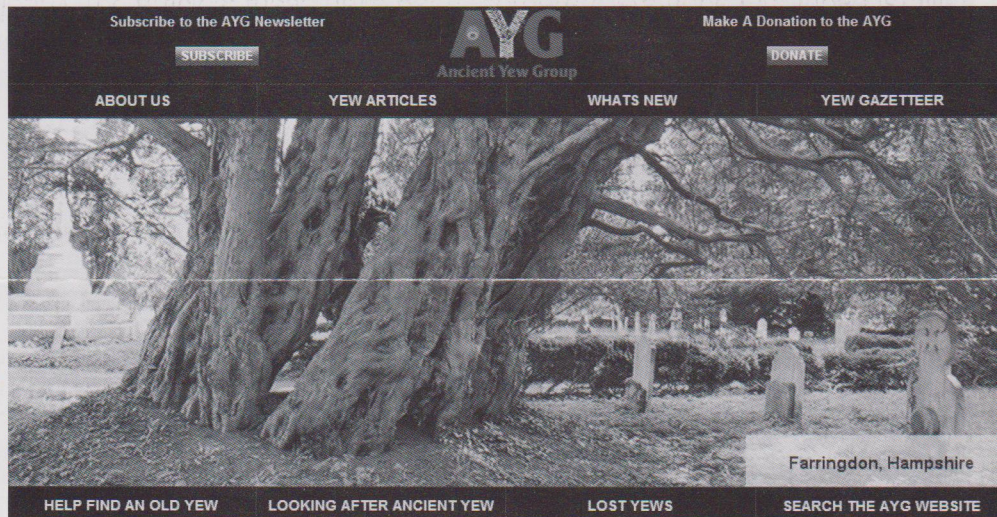
Ancient, Veteran and Notable Yews: A new yew classification - by Toby Hindson, contains two articles in which detailed explanations are given for allocating these descriptions to individual trees. This is ground-breaking material and the result of many years of study.

In the Yew Gazetteer each tree is labelled as Ancient, Veteran or Notable and its code is listed in **Classification Codes**. Being able to classify yews in this way is something that we have been striving towards for some time. It means that we are now in a position to give precise numbers of yews that should be on a conservation priority list. This begins with the ancient and veteran specimens in the churchyards of England and Wales, those 800 or so trees considered to be older than 500 years.

Who is responsible for Churchyard Yew contains 4 sub-categories. The *Church of England* and the *Church in Wales* list for the first time all the significant yews for which we have information. For two of the English dioceses, those of Rochester and Southwark, we present more detailed information about the yews they should be protecting. Similar presentations for the remainder of English and Welsh dioceses are being prepared for publication on this website during 2011.

Yews under threat is an article that many will have read, but we need to constantly remind ourselves of this threat.

Protection and Responsibility explains a new section of our Gazetteer, for which we hope to include the following information for every tree: (1) whether it has any legal protection (2) who is responsible for making decisions about a tree's welfare, or in the worst cases for giving the decision to have it felled.



The screenshot shows the website's navigation and content area. At the top, there are two links: "Subscribe to the AYG Newsletter" with a "SUBSCRIBE" button, and "Make A Donation to the AYG" with a "DONATE" button. The AYG logo (Ancient Yew Group) is centered. Below is a navigation menu with four items: "ABOUT US", "YEW ARTICLES", "WHATS NEW", and "YEW GAZETTEER". The main content area features a large photograph of an ancient yew tree in a churchyard. A caption below the photo reads "Farrington, Hampshire". At the bottom, there are four links: "HELP FIND AN OLD YEW", "LOOKING AFTER ANCIENT YEW", "LOST YEWs", and "SEARCH THE AYG WEBSITE".

Because the website now contains nearly 100 articles, these have been reordered. We hope that those familiar with the old website will find the transition painless.