

The yews here were recognised during a trip in 1805 which was reported in *The British Tourists: Or, Traveller's Pocket Companion* by William Mayor 1809. The writer stated that: 'In our progress down this charming vale we passed the village of Ystrad, in the cemetery of whose church stands a remarkably large yew tree, of great beauty and age'.

In *The Cambrian traveller's guide* of 1840 the yew caught the eye of G.Nicholson, who wrote: 'On the way notice the village of Ystrad. In the churchyard stands a remarkably ancient and beautiful yew-tree'.

Arthur O.Chater writes about Llanfihangel Ystrad (Ystrad Aeron): 'The remains of a female tree E of the church consist of two anciently sawn-off fragments of the original trunk and vigorous new growth, comprising about half the circumference of what was presumably once a single trunk; these remains were 924cm girth (at soil level) in 2006, so the tree must once have been among the biggest in the county'.

2005: The tree that has received so much attention is the latest incarnation of what was described 200 years ago as a 'remarkably ancient tree'. It grows directly east of the church. Sections of the old trunk are seen with numerous new branches growing from and around it. Girth was 29' 9", but one small piece of stump reveals that it has been larger still.



A second significant yew grows ESE of the church and closer to the building. Only one section of the original tree can be seen in the centre; from this and all around are numerous young branches. In time there will be no indication that this new growth has sprung from the shell of an old tree. It was not possible to tell from the small amount of original trunk just how large the tree once was.

