

*Church guide:* 'The church is dedicated to All Saints which is indicative of a Saxon origin and this conjecture is strengthened by the probability that standing on a rise it would be chosen as a place of worship in those times. The site may well be prehistoric as a sacred place'. Opposite the church gate is the entrance to Hersmonceaux castle.

1855: In *Hastings, past and present* Mary Matilda Howard wrote that 'It is towards yonder ancient yew that one is naturally attracted first, partly because it is so ancient, partly because under it sleeps Julius Charles Hare, twenty-two years rector of this parish. Near to it also lie other members of the Hare family'.

1863: *Handbook for travellers in Kent and Sussex*, R.J.King described a cluster of tomb crosses 'under the great churchyard yew'.

1882: *Forestry; a journal of forest and estate management volume 6 p8/9* - A thousand years must have passed since some of these old yew lost their hearts by the decay of the inner wood. Just such a yew, strong and tough in appearance, the trunk covered all over from the base upwards, with a bush of young branches, stands in the churchyard at Hurstmonceaux, Sussex.....this spot, where Pevensey Marsh, stretching far and green to the sea, is not greener than the old yew. But the aged evergreen was a dotard once, and hides a thousand years beneath his green exterior. This tree measures 22ft. 6in. at 4ft. from the ground.

In 1895 it is reported that 'The two main stems have been long killed through being broken by a storm....It cannot be much beyond the half-century since the top was broken'. *The Yew Trees of Great Britain and Ireland*.

7th July 1999: The huge yew, SE of the church, is an outpouring of thick branches above a swollen bole hidden behind elder, nettles and its own upright twiggy growth.



Girth: 1835: 218 cm diameter - *Gentleman's magazine*

1855: 'There is in the churchyard a yew of large dimensions, measuring at a height of three feet from the ground, 22 feet 6 inches in circumference'. *Hastings Past and Present*

1882: 22' 6" at 4' - *1882 Forestry: a journal of forest and estate management*

1894: 30' at 3' - *Lowe*

1997: 243 cm diameter @1.1m and a height of 12m - Owen Johnson *The Sussex Tree Book*

1999 31' 9" close to the ground - Tim Hills



2014: The photos below were taken by Peter Norton. Measurement was no longer possible because of the spray covering almost all of its large bulbous bole. He observed some browning of the needles.



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