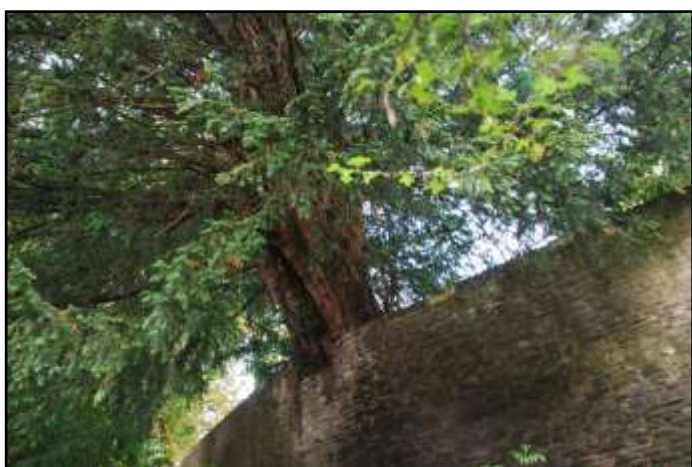


In 1830 the 'venerable yew tree' was described in the *Gentleman's Magazine* part II p393 of 1830.

Hardwicke's Science Gossip of 1873 p213/4 contains the following account, where the writer describes "a very old yew, which, in former years, I saw very frequently. When I was a boy at school in Gloucestershire, I used to visit a friend at Bitton, near Bath, and sometimes we went to church together, at the picturesque village of Oldham*. In the churchyard was a grand old yew, which at first sight had the appearance of three very large trees, the trunk having been divided down to the very base. One Sunday morning after church I was sitting under the shade of its wide-spreading branches, when I remember hearing the clergyman of the district describing the old church and its surroundings to some visitors. "And," said he, "this fine old yew is known to be over a thousand years old, and we have a record of its having been split by lightning about 150 years ago, and thus it has the appearance, you see, of a group of three distinct trees." One portion of this severed yew was tolerably erect, but the other two leaned downwards, at an angle so acute, that visitors could easily step between each portion: and, but that the character of the inner sides indicated fracture, it was hard to believe that they were not three individuals."

* this was the spelling in the article.



In 1938 Mee's *The King's England* described an 'old yew about 15ft round'.

In 1990 Meredith recorded a girth of 17ft.

2003: The healthy male yew grows at the perimeter of the churchyard above a 10' drop to the lane below. The tree leans outwards over the wall. Many new branches are attached to the lower part of its bole, some becoming thick and swelling its girth to the 16' 10" we were able to record close to its base. It has a large central branch with a long split, revealing its decaying interior. Both on the land below the church grounds and in an adjacent garden were several more yews.

