

In the past:

1790: Wednesday Sept 22nd : '.....to Waldershare church: in a most happy sequestered situation, well begirt by Old yew trees.' *A Tour into Kent* - John Byng

1818: 'The church of Waldershare is very small, and nearly hidden by a solemn grove of yew trees.' *A Journey round the Coast of Kent* - L.Fussell



1833: '.....the encasing of the old dead wood by that of more modern formation .....may be seen well exemplified in an old yew tree ..... in the churchyard at Waldershare'. Rev W.T.Bree in Loudon's *Magazine of Natural History*

1936: 'The chief possessions of this little church are its magnificent yews, two perhaps as old as the Norman Conquest'. Mee *The King's England*

1999: On the left is the first magnificent yew, a female on the south side of the church. Almost its entire bole is covered in living wood. Regular trimming next to the path has exposed an unusually large area to direct sunlight, producing a richly coloured bark. Many thick branches grow from this 8' high bole. Girth in 1999 was 23' 9" at the ground, but above bulging roots. In 2013 this had increased to 23' 11".

The second magnificent yew, also female and growing by the side of tree 1, will be the tree Rev Bree referred to in 1833.

It is seen here in 1999, a tree of two fragments girthing just under 32', in which one fragment has leaned over and come to rest in the branches of the first yew. The standing section divided neatly into three main growth areas, but by 2013 that too had partially collapsed.





The fallen fragment rests neatly and safely in the branches of the first yew.



The standing fragment, with its three main areas of growth in 1999 is seen below left. In 2009, two of these collapsed leaving a single standing fragment seen below in 2013.





The remaining three yews grow in a less accessible part of the churchyard on the north side.

Tree 3 is male growing WNW of the church. A long root stretches away on the south side. The bole is so covered in twigggy growth that measurement was not possible. 19' is a guide only.



Tree 4 (below left) is female, NNW of the church, with a girth of 15' 6" at 2' in 1999. It was competing with the relentless advance of ivy and old mans beard and could not be remeasured in 2013.

Tree 5 (right) is male NNE of the church, with a girth estimated at about 15' in 1999.

