

## Entente Cordiale helps protect a French Yew

The Ancient Yew Group gazetteer now includes details of remarkable yew to be found at 76 sites in France and 22 in Spain. The benefit of recording trees outside of Britain and Ireland was justified recently when an old yew in the churchyard at Montgardon in Normandy came under threat from being taken down following poor advice on its health given to the local Mayor. A number of organisations, including the Ancient Yew Group and Tree Register wrote letters, supporting the trees retention, to the Mayor, helping raise awareness of the trees international importance. As we go to print it appears the tree, estimated to be 800 years old, has been saved from being cut down and will be managed rather more sympathetically.

Yannick Morhan of the French organisation A.R.B.R.E.S (Arbres remarquables bilan recherche étude sauvegarde ) reported; *"The mayor organised a meeting, because he received many emails from several European countries. The result of our action is that the tree will not be felled but heavily cut back on the side that leans. Thank you to everyone who sent an email to the mayor, this helped us to influence him."*



A leaning tree, much of its bole obscured by thick twiggy growth. Wire netting covers a gap revealing a hollow tree with much internal growth. (Photo: Han van Meegeren)



This old postcard (above), from the Christian Wolf Collection, states that the Montgardon church was rebuilt in the 11th century.