

Abenhall has also been known as Abbenhall and Abinghall. In the 1876 *Morris & Co. Commercial Directory & Gazetteer of Abbenhall* is the following description: 'The churchyard is a sequestered spot, with the church and rectory entirely embosomed in trees, among which, an elm and two yews are especially venerable, the two latter dating probably from the time of Edward I., when Sir Ralph de Abben Hall held the manor; his tenure requiring him to furnish two bowmen for the forest'.



Sixty years later in *The King's England* Mee described Abinghall as a lonely place with a 13th century church and 'two magnificent old yews that have kept it company most of the time'. Some time between 1938 and 2003 one of the yews was lost.



2003: The surviving tree is male, growing south west of the church. Meredith's research on the position of churchyard yews notes many instances where a male tree growing south west of the church is partnered by a female to the south; perhaps this was the case at Abenhall.

Meredith further asserts that this planting pattern often denotes Saxon origins, though in this instance a planting at the time of Edward I is more likely (1239/1307). Examination of the tree indicates that it has been considerably larger than its present girth of 14' 9" (450cm) at 1'.

Below are photos taken by Peter Norton in 2014. He recorded the yew's girth as 14' 11" at about 1'. He also noted younger yews, a female northeast of the church and a male south of the church. Each had estimated girths of about 9'.

