

In a *Village History*, available on the Charlton Marshall Village website, is the following information:

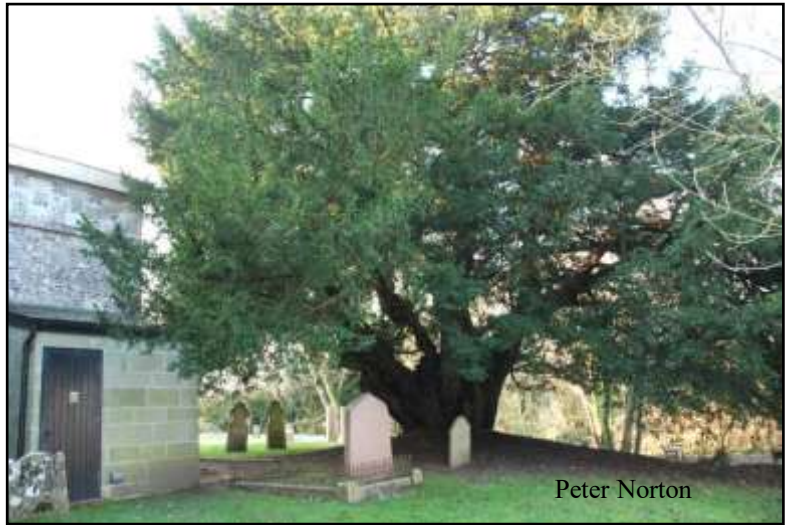
“There are lots of yew trees in Charlton Marshall; the biggest and oldest being the one in the north east corner of the church yard. Its girth is about 24 ft (7 metres) and it is certainly older than the church. It's a tree that 'parishioners are, or ought to be proud of' as the Rector wrote in the parish magazine of September 1897. The next March he had to record that 'the grand old Yew Tree in Charlton Churchyard has suffered very seriously from the snow storm which fell so heavily on the night of February 21st. The whole of the North East side of the tree is now practically destroyed and only one of the large limbs remains'.”

Here is a clear example of a yew's power of recovery. All around the bole are the gaps left where portions have broken off. The first photo shows the NE side which was 'practically destroyed' in 1897, reducing its considerable girth by several feet.



Girths recorded in 2010 and 2015 illustrate the difficulty of accurate measurement on a tree such as this. In January 2010 Peter Norton recorded a girth of exactly 20' close to the ground and in January 2015 a girth of 19' 7" at the ground. When I measured the yew in March 2015 I recorded 20' 6½" close to the ground.

The female tree is full of the character borne out of destruction and recovery. The photos that I took in 2015 from many points around the tree, reveal this to be an excellent specimen in which to see the extraordinary features associated with an ancient yew.



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