

In 1939 *The King's England* described 'a big yew at its gate'. We are fortunate that this yew survives. *The History of All Saints, Minstead* has the following account: 'An unusual Yew tree by the lychgate is reputed to be at least 400 years old while others claim it was planted when the church was built. A severe storm ripped down half of the tree after it had been partly filled with concrete in 1979, due to a hollow centre. This caused a lot of arguments about whether to fell the tree completely or to leave it to chance. But it is still there today which is mainly due to expert treatment by tree surgeons who estimate it as over 700 years old'.

In 2002 I recorded the female yew which grows NE of the church. Half of its shell remains, the rest having been neatly cut away close to the ground. The blackened inside suggests fire/smoke damage. The remaining shell grows to about 10' before an outpouring of thick branches, on which foliage was thin. Its girth of 14' 7" around the base will be much reduced when the dead wood has decayed.

