

The 1909 *Little Guides to Monmouthshire* reported 'two fine old yews' in Penrhos churchyard. When J.Daryll Evans visited in 1987 he noted 3 yews, but only this one appeared to be of great age. In his *Churchyard Yews of Gwent* he described it as 'hollow, the trunk open along one side and enclosing new stems', and with a girth of 668cm (21' 11") at 1m.



The male yew grows SSW of the church. In 1999 we found layers of barbed wire around its bole to discourage climbing on a tree which already leaned precariously. I recorded a girth of 18' 10" at its narrowest close to the ground. A section of old sapwood shell, seen at A in 1999, would at one time have completely enclosed B, an internal stem, providing evidence that this was once a larger girthed yew. By 2005 (seen below photographed by Geoff Garlick) most of the sapwood (A) had gone, leaving the internal stem in its new position on the outside of the tree.

