

In the past:

1849: Sharpe's *London Magazine* page 243 describes 'a vast yew tree'.

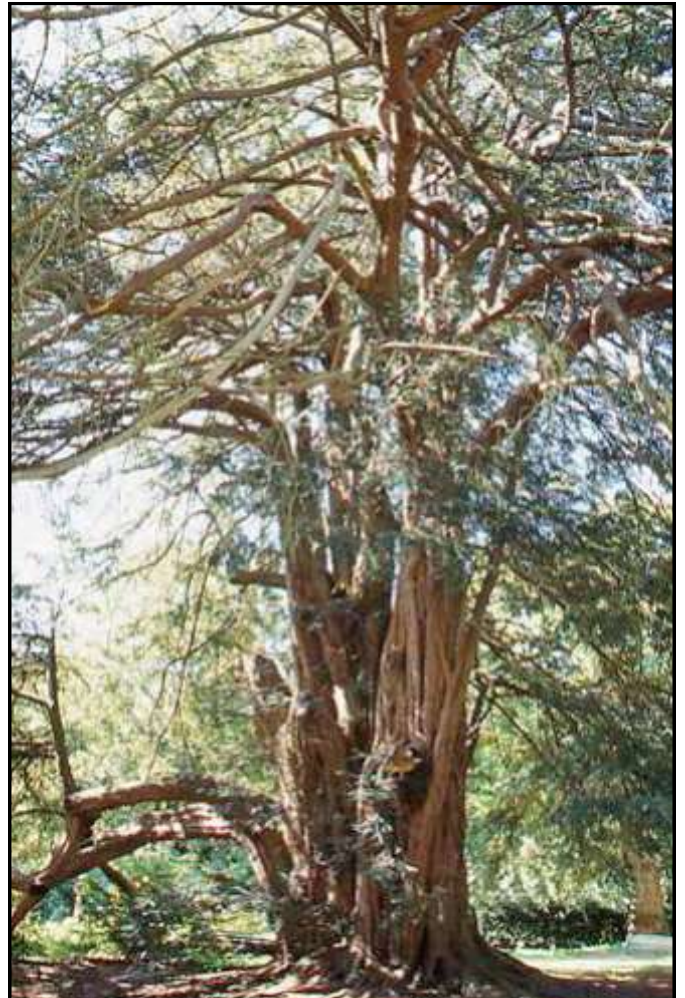
1850: Brayley's *Topographical history of Surrey Vol 4*: 'At the west end, is a large decayed yew-tree, split into four or five parts, and in a state of rapid decay. At five feet from the ground, its circumference is nearly thirty feet'.

1854: Dugdale *England and Wales Delineated*: 'A gigantic yew tree, now in an advanced state of decay'.

1865: 'At the W. end is a gigantic, but decaying, yew-tree: the trunk nearly as large as that of the more famous Crowhurst yew, is quite hollow, but the foliage is still abundant'. *A handbook for travellers in Surrey, Hampshire, and the Isle of Wight* by Richard John King and John Murray

1890: Lowe considered that two 'lateral trunks springing from the base' were 'slightly united to the central one' and that these had 'probably grown after the main stem had fractured at some early period'. He dismissed any suggestion that it might be 3 trees that had grown together. *The Yew-trees of Britain and Ireland*

1936 '....throwing its branches across this beautiful corner of Surrey. They make a circle of 250' and have such life that this great trunk.....has given itself new strength since it was reported dying more than 100 years ago'. Mee's *The King's England*



1958: 'A magnificent tree in very vigorous growth'. Swanton *The Yew Trees of England*

1999: Here is undoubtedly one of the finest yew trees, boasting not only great girth but also considerable height carried on many straight and fluted branches. In addition to its vast spreading canopy of green, younger yews growing nearby have probably layered from the parent tree. Its cavernous hollow was unfortunately darkened by fire or smoke.

| | 1880 Straker | 1890 Lowe | 1910 Johnson | 1955 Swanton | 1994 Fookes | 1999 Hills |
|--------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Ground | | | | 33' 4" | | 35' 4" |
| 2' | | 30' 4" | | | | |
| 3' | | | | 32' 8" | | |
| 5' | 30' | | 32' 4" | | 36' | |

Vaughan Cornish's *The Churchyard Yew and Immortality* 1946



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