

THE ALL HALLOWS YEW

The first measuring of the splendid English Yew in the All Hallows churchyard took place in 2006. It was a glorious summer day, and ninety-eight people came to the event. The measurements were sent to the Tree Register and our handsome tree was recognized as being over five hundred years old and was accorded the rank of an Ancient Yew. Since 2006 the categories assigned to very old trees have been refined and there are now three sections: Ancient, Veteran, and Notable, and our tree is now listed on the Ancient Yew Group website as 'Notable'. If you would like to see three pictures of it, taken in 2006, go to www.ancient-yew.org and click on the Gazetteer tab. Then proceed to p.145.

Old Yews are not easy to measure accurately. They grow very slowly and many of the very ancient trees - those over a thousand years and more - have had long periods of non-growth and then started to grow again. A difficulty in measuring the All Hallows specimen is that it grows from a steeply sloping bank (possibly the boundary bank of the early churchyard) and forks into separate limbs only a short distance from the ground. We follow the measuring instructions very carefully and our estimates of age are cautious. We then send them to the AYG for vetting and confirmation.

We will announce an estimated age for the Yew as soon as we have calculated it after measuring. When the results have been seen by the AYG the official result will be published in the Newsletter.

The All Hallows Yew is a female tree. We know this because of the lovely red arils, or flower seeds, that cover it in the autumn. Do take the opportunity to look at the flourishing yew cutting taken after the 2006 Measuring celebration. It is on display at the refreshments table.

10 AUGUST 2011



THE SOUTHERLY ASPECT OF THE YEW



LOOKING UPWARDS TO A COMPLICATED
STRUCTURE OF MASSIVE LIMBS



NOTE THE MEASURING CORD ROUND THE
UNFORKED PART OF THE TRUNK

RINGMORE HISTORICAL SOCIETY