

## Childhood Memories

Last updated: 24 November 2005

**Phyllis Morgan** has lived in Hay-on-Wye for almost a century and she writes here about how life has changed in the town since she was a child.



"I was born in Hay on the 18th of December 1906. It was a very different Hay to what it is today.

Childhood was fantastic. We could play in the street for hours, no cars or buses, only an occasional pony and trap, or horse with a dray and people with their bicycles.

There wasn't any homework so we had plenty of time to play. We could roam in the fields, climb trees, fish and paddle in the river. Go up the common to hunt for lost golf balls which we sold to the golfers at three pence each, in old coinage - a silver threepenny bit.

When I came home from school, I used to chalk a hopscotch on the pavement outside our front door, passers by didn't seem to mind. We had skipping ropes, spinning tops, hoops and even a game of marbles in the gutter and on a windy day, we would fly our kites in the street.



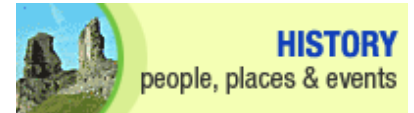
In those days, Hay had several organised things to go to. The chapels and churches were full, so most children went to Sunday School. We had Band of Hope, Girls Friendly Society, Scouts, ball games, concerts, anniversaries and Sunday School outings, usually to Barry Island.

I feel sorry for the children of today because most of their day is spent indoors. What with homework, computers and television, there isn't any time left to play.

We left school at 14 years of age and it was easy to get a job - at the sawmills, the railway station, the timber yard, the gas works, the mill, the tannery and the varied shops. These have all gone, excepting the shops and two factories."

*Written by Phyllis Morgan from Hay-on-Wye*

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**One of the Havards of Cusop**



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Hay has been through many transitions and will always remain place to visit and stay. Many people will remember me as I used wonder up the Dulas brook 35 years ago poaching for trout while my Grandmother followed behind with here Poodle, along the road side, talking to all her friends and anyone else, or even to her self if no one was around. Cusop the English side of the border was the family home of many Havards and Davis.. Its worth a visit to Cusop Chapel a great place to live.Its memories that shape us and those memories will be with me until I die!  
Thu Nov 19 16:15:26 2009

**Helen Morgans, from Colchester, Essex, UK**

In reply to Roxanne Lien from Wisconsin Usa, the lady whose photograph is on the Hay-on-Wye postman's website is not the artist who painted in the Cotswolds. Phyllis Morgans RGI (Royal Glasgow Institute of Fine Art) was my mother who was a professional artist who passed away in 2001. She painted mainly in oils and sold many of her paintings in Bourton-on-the-Water in the Cotswolds. She was made an Honorary Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Painters and she represented many organisations in exhibitions in England and were also exhibited at the Paris Salon. Her paintings are in private and public collections across the world including the Congress Library in Washington. There is so much more information I could give on Phyllis Morgans the artist.  
Mon Oct 12 09:18:19 2009

**Roxanne Lien from Wisconsin, USA**

I have four small oil paintings by a Phyllis Morgans, R.G.I the painting are of the Cotswolds and so lovely in quality I knew I had to find out something about the artist. I am hoping that the lovely lady pictured is Phyllis Morgans the artist in question.  
Wed Sep 23 09:35:12 2009

**dave morgan - bredwardine**

My father, Alfred Morgan, was born in 1911 in Clyro. He lived at Belle Vue cottage in Clyro (since renamed 'Cefn Glas'). I wonder if you knew my father or any of his siblings (Elizabeth b. 1898, Florence b. 1908, Horace b. 1905, or Edith b. 1902) or were you related in any way to him?  
Fri Jun 19 09:13:48 2009

**Jenny, Hereford**

oh great aunt phyllis, hello xxxx you are my Grandads sister, Geoff is my Dad xxxx  
Thu Jul 31 08:42:59 2008

**Joe Boot from Elizabethton, TN USA**

I lived with Cerys Wood's great aunt Sally for three months in 1963, if she was the "Sally Price" that lived in Heol-y-dwr (spelling could be off), while I was temporary pastor of the Bethesda Evangelical Church in Oxford Rd. We have always maintained contact with friends from that time and enjoyed occasional visits over the years. As was remarked by Joan Greenway, Hay is not what it was in the sixties and I believe Mr Booth had an antique shop in what had been the old fire station, with some books upstairs. The area about Hay is a beautiful and that has not changed.  
Tue May 27 09:06:05 2008

**Dean Edwards Ebbw Vale**

Hi, I am looking for some info and photographs of my family. I am told that they owned the Saunders flour mills in Hay. My grandfather Fred Saunders was born in 1910 and I

believe he played for a football team as a child. If anyone has info or photos I would be grateful if you could get in touch. Many thanks.

Mon Jan 14 08:30:25 2008

**Jeremy Clarke ( Cardiff )**

Heya, I dont reli know you, just heard great things about you from your sister's grand child...I gota admit she does look good 4 her age and I can say I know where lauren gets her looks from now :D

Mon Aug 27 18:28:03 2007

**Jayne Lucas, Dubai**

I have very fond memories of Hay. My husband worked abroad and when he returned home to Carmarthenshire where we lived we would always make time to go to Hay. Alan having a passion for books would spend hours browsing in the old musty smelling book shops looking for the latest addition to add to his collection and I would hunt for little treasures amongst the antiques.We were in heaven!! We would spend our evenings in the Kilverts eating delicious food..what fond memories. I am now living abroad in the hustle and bustle of modern city life...but give me my little retreat in Hay-on-Wye anyday.

Fri Aug 10 08:44:44 2007

**Claire Powell**

In memory of my Nan: I am extremely proud to say that Phyllis Morgan was my Nan. As mentioned in early posts, Nan celebrated her 100th birthday in style in December with many of her huge family around her, and fortunately remained still very fit, healthy and actively independant until a month ago today when she sadly became unwell. Following a valiant fight (against all odds) she battled on bravely until she peacefully passed away on Monday 14th May 2007. She never complained and was always more worried about others than herself, and she also kept her spirit and razor sharp wit intact right to the end.

Thu May 31 09:52:03 2007

**Claire Powell**

Her funeral service was held in Hay-on-Wye on Monday 21st of May 2007 in the chapel where she had worshipped nearly all of her life. It was full to the point where people had to stan at the back and the singing from the congregation was amazing - sent shivers up my spine!! I think she would have approved!! She has taught so many people so much, and was admired by so many. There is so much I could ! say about her - but this post would go on and on!! She was greatly loved, and will be missed greatly by her equally mavellous and amazing husband, her daughter, son-in-law, grandchildren and great ! grandchildren to whom she was devoted as much as they were to her. We all have such marvelous memories of her which we can cherish and take comfort in. Goodbye Nan, we will never forget you xxXXxx.

Wed May 30 12:03:26 2007

**Barry Price, Camberley**

Having had a wonderful 100th Birthday in December 2006 with family and friends Phyllis passed away peacefully on Monday the 14th May 2007. She will be very much missed by all who knew her. Although one thing is certain, her art and artistry will live on...

Thu May 17 17:47:51 2007

**Wendy Earley from Oxfordshire**

My father was brought up in Hay and I had many holidays

there with my gran Mrs Davis my father was adopted and retained the name of morris(norman. I am visiting Hay soon and would love to find where my gran lived. My father always refered to it as (excuse my welsh)heil a`dor street by the water I think. also I send each year a christmas card to his old friend Pat (Alice) Stanmore but this year the card was returned -addressee not here. my father was born in 1913 and left. I think when he was about 17yrs, he died in 20 someone always used to send him the Haywire mag. Can anyone help please.

Mon Mar 5 09:54:46 2007

**Jill Preston Hay on Wye**

I would like to send my best wishes to Mrs Morgan I was born in Hay, brought up in Hay, Married in Hay and i do not intend to be any where else when its my turn to leave this life, i love this home of mine so very much i intend to stay here after death. I am a niece to Michael Barrell who has sent in the lovely photos of our family. Mrs Morgan would of course had known the family especially my gran Esther Barrell nee Rosser. All i really wanted to say is that I am proud to of been born here in Hay on Wye, I am proud to belong to one of the oldest families in Hay on Wye. I am proud of our castle (please Mr Booth look after it). and when anyone asks where i come from i am proud to say I come from Hay on Wye.

Mon Jan 8 09:34:34 2007

**Len Price , Camberley**

A very Happy 100th Birthday today to Aunt Phyllis. So many changes have been seen in her lifetime. Fondest love from Len, Barry, Roger, Russell, Sheryl & Lindsey the late Percy Price's Family

Mon Dec 18 09:25:59 2006

**Lauren Smith, Felindre**

Good old great aunty Phyllis, i am 1 of Joyce Price's grand children there is quiet a few or us. Aunty Phyllis looks good for 99 doesnt she?! and its her birthday soon! Happy Birthday Aunty Phyllis! And Hay-on-Wye is a great place!

Mon Nov 13 10:03:14 2006

**Mavis Jarvis, N, Yorkshire**

Hay-on-Wye is fascinating. I stayed there in May of this year while walking the Offa's Dyke path. I spent a day in the cemetery looking for the gravestones of my father's uncle and cousin but with no luck. Uncle William Marwood was a Minister and Cousin Cyril was a journalist who wrote a booklet called "Wisps of Hay". Cyril's wife was the organist at St. Mary's. I hope to stay at 'Hendre' for a night in September. Is this the photographer's home?

Thu Jun 29 12:47:42 2006

**Sylvia Parker, nee Breese.**

Thanks Phyllis. My grandparents lived at Blaen Cwm on the Black Mountain. They brought up 13 children. My mum was Margery, number 11. The surname was Greenow. There are lots of us who still get together occasionally for a family reunion.

Tue May 9 16:23:20 2006

**Sylvia Parker, nee Breese.**

Thanks Phyllis. My grand parents lived at Blaen Cwm on the Black Mountain. They brought up 13 children. My mum was Margery, number 11. The surname was Greenow; there are lots of us who still get together accasionally for a family reunion.

Fri May 5 09:58:46 2006

**Michael Saunders from Masham North Yorkshire**

my mother Gladys Susan Harris who also appears to have gone under the name of Warner at Birth was born in the same year as Phyllis Morgan. I wonder whether she knew her. I would love to find out as would my cousin Mary who is the daughter of my mothers sister Mary Harris. My mother was born in Lamb Cottage Hay. If anyone can help me find out if anyone knew them I would be most grateful. This is a wonderful site.

Sun Feb 19 12:25:07 2006

**Cerys Wood from Leicester**

My Gran comes from Hay. Her name before she was married was Elsie Price. She lived with her many brothers and sisters on Albert Terrace. The home still belongs to my family and I visit there often with my Gran. One of her sisters was called Sally Price and she lived in Hay until she died about 15 years ago. Great Aunt Sally was always smiling and very funny!

Fri Feb 17 12:23:33 2006

**joan greenway from hay now in peckam london**

my brother has just emailed this site how lovely to read phyllis memories i remember lots of days spent down the river as kids and skating on the ice in winter even in the fifties and sixties hay was a lovely quiet place to live but alas all has changed, outsiders have come and taken over gone are the days when i knew everyone in hay and most of cusop by name

Sat Dec 10 14:51:37 2005

**Natasha Jones, Connah's Quay**

I have read this page on Phyllis Morgan and reading it made me imagine what it was like back then...thank you Phyllis for putting a smile on my face.

Tue Nov 22 17:35:45 2005

**Justine Ogden from Droitwich Worcs**

My Grandmothers family lived in Hay on Wye. Her maiden name was Perry does anyone know any family member?

Tue May 3 23:56:12 2005

**Gail Warwood from Birmingham.**

Dear Phyllis, I wonder if you knew of or remember a gentleman called Bramwell Bradley - he worked in Hay Castle as a Butler. Bramwell lives around the corner from me and the stories that he as told me of his life and of times gone by in the Castle and Hay are truly inspiring. He still recalls on many memories so vividly - I feel like I was there during such times. Bramwell even wrote a book about his time working in the Castle, although he never had it published - it makes very interesting reading. If only today's children could take a step back in time.

Wed Mar 2 00:19:25 2005

**V Chandran Malaysia**

I think the best place that I visited is Wales.I really envy the Welsh as they have everything , from mountains, to valleys and the sea.A tribute to the Welsh is their traditions and customs.I look forward to visiting walse again after 23 years!!

Tue Nov 30 13:25:47 2004

**LiuXiaomng from QianJiang**

I have the same feeling with phyllis.I think many children

has been far away from nature.They are just indulge in playing computers, watching TV.They seldom go out and play in the nature. It is no doubt that society give them too much stress,to some extent which make them become different from our. Another reason is the chang of our country.Our country become more and more advanced.However, our surroundings become more and more dangerous.Many patrents are worried about this and don't allowtheir children to go out and play .Children are just allowed to stay at home and play. This is our society's pity,this is our country's pity!

Wed Aug 18 08:37:13 2004

**nolita lobo**

hay on wye has a certain romance to it that industrial cities lack. The run down castles and book shops give you a glimpse into the mystery and beauty that this little towns boasts of. its simply amazing.

Mon Aug 16 19:23:52 2004

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Castle Street during the 1910s

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This is the house where Phyllis Morgan's family lived for 300 years.

- *Phyllis Morgan has also sent us her **memories** of growing up in Hay, and also a **poem** extolling the virtues of her hometown.*

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Locals



1 2 3 4 5 6

Local baker Mr William Pitt with some of the town's children.

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Hay Football Team

1 2 3 4 5 6

A photograph of the local lads who were part of the Hay-on-Wye Football Team, which dates from the late 1920s.

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Hay Carnival

1 2 3 4 5 6

Locals enjoy the Hay Carnival during the 1940s.

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Family Photo

1 2 3 4 5 6

Joyce Price (Phyllis Morgan's sister) with her first 4 children.  
The photograph dates back to the early 1950s.

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## Phyllis' Hay Photos

Last updated: 24 November 2005

**Phyllis Morgan** has lived in Hay-on-Wye for almost a century and has sent us some old photos of Hay from days gone by. If you've got any shots of the town in days gone by, you can **send them** to us and we'll add them to the website.



'Have a Go'

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Phyllis Morgan's mother at the Crown Hotel with Mabel and Wilfred Pickles when she won the 'Jack Pot' in the BBC Radio programme 'Have a Go'. The programme was broadcasted from Hay-On-Wye on 2 November 1959.

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- *Phyllis Morgan has also sent us her **memories** of growing up in Hay, and also a **poem** extolling the virtues of her hometown.*

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## Ode To Hay

Last updated: 24 November 2005

Lifelong Hay-on-Wye resident Phyllis Morgan has written a poem extolling the virtues of her hometown.



Sheltered in a valley with hills that tower round,  
a little town called Hay-on-Wye, its beauty is renowned.  
The partly ruined castle on elevated ground,  
Richard Booth is the owner, he's known the world around.

With Richard, Morelli and others, the town is full of books,  
in every hole and corner, there's books and still more books.  
In May, the "Literary Festival " of nationwide acclaim,  
with writers, orators and linguists, mostly from the hall of fame.

They read their books and poetry for interested folks to hear,  
the pianists and instrumentalists are a joy to the ear,  
Classical, country and western, jazz, rhythm and blues,  
Scientists, Psychiatrists, Broadcasters reading the news.

Hotels, Inns and B&Bs, places where you can stay,  
you sure will get a welcome when you set foot in Hay.  
Thursday is the market day with stalls that line the streets,  
souvenirs and gift shops, and quality antiques.

Towards St Mary's Church yard, within a little dell,  
nestled in among the rocks, you'll find the 'Swans Well'.  
Please walk down the 'Warren' to the famous 'River Wye',  
where anglers fish and children swim, neath the summer sky.

Take a walk round 'Cusop' for delightful nooks and dells,  
a lovelier spot is hard to find and the waterfalls they're swell.  
Onwards flows the "Dulas", a vivacious little brook,  
sparkling cascades, shimmering pools compel a generous look.

Orchards thick with fruit trees, fields of waving corn,  
Black Mountains in the distance, majestic, yet forlorn.  
With Hay's historical places and beautiful scenery round,  
a prettier, more attractive place I'm sure cannot be found.

*By Phyllis Morgan from Hay-on-Wye*

- [Read Phyllis' memories of growing up in Hay](#)

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