



# FACTsheet 17

## At what cost?

We've been having some fun with maths and looking at some typical salaries in Penmaenmawr in the 19th / early 20th centuries, compared to the typical cost of living.

### If you lived in Penmaenmawr in 1840...

This decade is known as the 'hungry forties'. An economic depression was in full swing, wages were low, crop failure was high and the Corn Laws (nicknamed The Bread Tax) were still being 'enforced' meaning that the price of grain was beyond the means of the masses. (In some places a loaf of bread was 9½d, the equivalent of more than a day's wages for many people).

Employed as a female domestic servant you would have earned £6 per annum (around £400 today), and if you worked five days a week this was the equivalent of just under 6 pence (6d) a day (around £1.70 today).

As a skilled mason you would have earned 3 shillings a day (around £9.40 today).

A teacher earned about £10 a year, and John Evans the builder was paid £16 for building a new house for the Brynmor Estate in Penmaenmawr (around £1000 today).

Half a ton of coal would have cost you 7 shillings (about £22 today).

Two peck (approx 25lbs) of early potatoes would have cost you 3 shillings

One and a half hobets of wheat (around 250lbs) would have cost you £1,11/6 (about £100 today).



# At what cost?

## If you lived in Penmaenmawr in 1882...

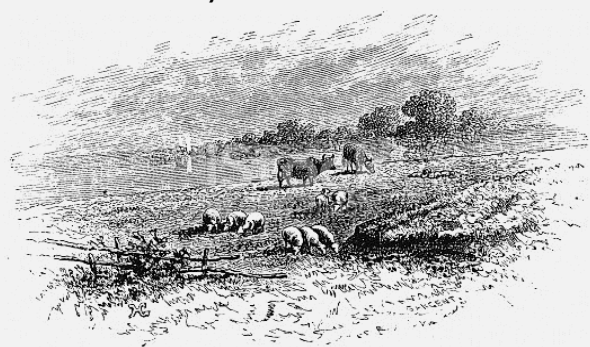
Employed as a settmaker, you would have been paid by the amount of setts you produced. John Davies' pay books reveal an average wage of £3 per fortnight (5 to 6 shillings a day). Settmakers were some of the highest paid workers in the quarry, and many of them invested a portion of their income in property and boarding houses at this time.

An advertisement for a joiner to work with a cabinet maker in Penmaenmawr, advertised a salary of 4s a day.

You could rent a 5-bedroom house in Penmaenmawr for £20 a year, whilst S H Roberts was leasing Cambrian 'buildings' for £5 a year.

If you didn't mind walking over the mountain to Tal-y-bont every day, the school there was advertising for a female assistant teacher with a salary of £40 a year (just over 3s a day).

An experienced cowman was paid around £26 a year and advertisements for head housekeepers were offering salaries of around £15 a year.



But the lot of the 'more lowly' servants hadn't changed much in 40 years, and female dairymaids and domestics were hired at Penmorfa Fair for as low as £4.8s per annum. It's during this period we see a huge increase in women living and working together in Penmaenmawr, pooling their resources and running businesses.



The Corn Laws had been repealed by now, making grain practically the same price as it was 40 years earlier, and therefore items like bread were more affordable. 147lbs of barley would have cost you 12s, and 167 lbs of wheat for 17s; butter was 1s 6d per lb; and you could get 7lbs of potatoes for sixpence.



# At what cost?

If you lived in Penmaenmawr in the early 1900s...

It would cost you 3d for admission to the Fairy Glen, and a coach tour through Dwygyfylchi and Penmaenmawr from Llandudno would cost you 4 shillings. The annual outing for quarrymen to Liverpool cost 4s for an adult and 2s for children.

M H Parry the Bookseller in Clarendon Buildings was holding a book sale in 1903, with 300 of the most popular books at 6s and 3s 6d. For female dairymaids and servants the price of a book or a coach tour was more than a month's salary.

**COACH TOURS.**

TO VISITORS, TOURISTS AND OTHERS.

**THE GRAND LOOP TOUR**—Mr. C. A. HARTLEY will commence to run on **WHIT-MONDAY**, and on every Week-day, until further notice, the Magnificent Four-Horse Coach, the **'PRINCE OF WALES,'** starting from the Queen's Hotel, Llandudno, at 9 a.m., pass through Conway, along the picturesque slopes of the Carnarvonshire hills, through Trefriw, Llanrwst, Bettws-y-Coed, Capel Curig, returning homewards through the renowned Pass of Nant Ffrangcon, by Llan Porthyn's Leviathan Slate Quarries, Bethesda, past Penrhyn Castle, Glandwrfechan, Penmaenmawr, Conway, arriving at Llandudno about 7 o'clock the same evening. Passengers' Fare for the Round, 12s.; Intermediate distances *pro rata*.

**BETTWS-Y-COED**—"THE OLD TIMES" will leave the **QUEEN'S HOTEL, Llandudno**, at 10<sup>15</sup> a.m., calling at the Imperial and Marine Hotels, for Bettws-y-Coed and back, allowing time to see the Swallow Falls and other objects of interest. Fare for the Round, 7s.

**COLWYN BAY**—"THE EXPRESS" will leave the **QUEEN'S HOTEL, Llandudno**, twice daily, round Colwyn Bay and back through the Vale of Mechna and Llandudno Junction, starting at 10.30 and 2.30. Fare for the Round, 2s. 6d.

**PENMAENMAWR**—"THE WONDER" will leave the **QUEEN'S HOTEL, Llandudno**, twice daily, at 9.45 and 2.30, for Penmaenmawr, through Conway, over the Old Coach Road, through Sychant Pass and Dwygyfylchi, and back along the New Road, staying at Dwygyfylchi to view the Fairy Glen, and a short stay at Penmaenmawr. Fare for the Round, 4s.

**BODNANT HALL**—"THE ROCKET" will leave the **QUEEN'S HOTEL, Llandudno**, Tuesdays and Saturdays, at 2.30 p.m., for Bodnant Hall, to View the Gardens and Grounds. Fare for the Round, 4s.

**Booking Offices for Coaches: Queen's Hotel Gardens, Llandudno.**

**MARCH 28th, 1906.**

Fowls, 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d.; ducks, 4s. 6d.; eggs, 18 and 19 for 1s.; fresh butter, 1s. 1½d. to 1s. 2d.; small tubs, 1s. 2d.; beef, 7d. to 9d.; mutton, 8d. to 10d.; fat pigs, 4½d.

