



FACTsheet 9

George Eliot: fully booked

Mary Anne Evans (1819-1880) is possibly best known by her pen-name, George Eliot. She was a novelist and poet, and one of the leading writers of the 19th century.

Mary published seven novels, including *The Mill on the Floss* and *Middlemarch*, under the male pen-name, 'George Eliot'. At that time female writers weren't taken very seriously by society and they were expected to stick to writing light-hearted romances. Using a male pen-name enabled Mary to get her work published and her books are popular to this day.

So what is Mary's connection with Penmaenmawr? It's not a great one – she tried to stay in the town during her travels but there were no rooms available!



Here is her journal entry for August 25th, 1859:

"In the evening of this day we set off on our journey to Penmaenmawr . We reached Conwy at half past three in the morning; and finding that it was hopeless to get a bed anywhere, we walked about the town till the morning began to dawn, and we could see the outline of the fine old castle's battlemented walls.

In the morning we went to Llandudno, thinking that might suit us better than Penmaenmawr . We found it ugly and fashionable.

Then we went off to Penmaenmawr, which was beautiful to our hearts' content or rather discontent for it would not receive us, being already filled with visitors. Back again in despair to Conwy, where we got temporary lodgings at one of the numerous Joneses."

