

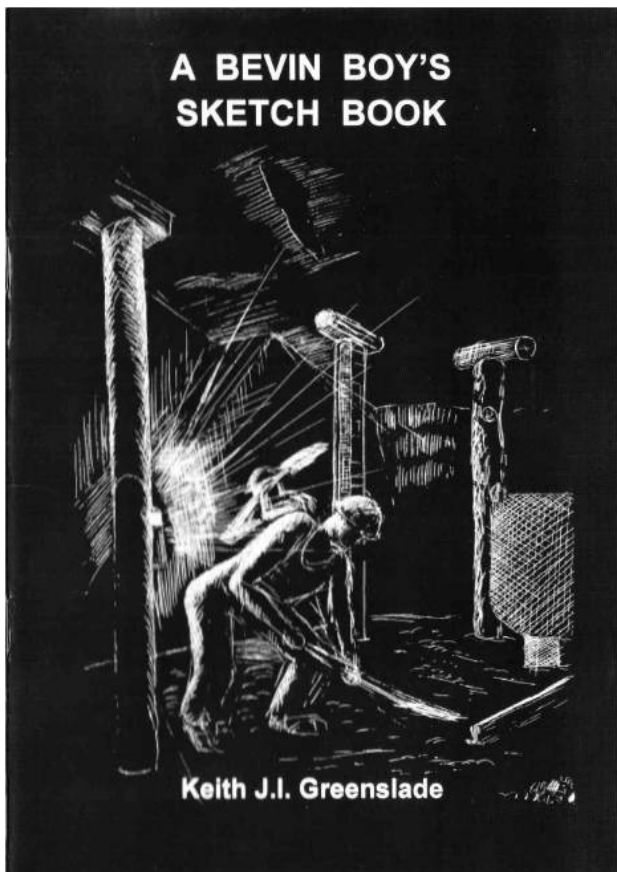
A BEVIN BOY'S SKETCH BOOK by Keith Greenslade

This 40 page A5 format softback book is written by a Bevin Boy working in UK coal mines during World War 2. But, as the title suggests, this is not just a book of text about Bevin Boys, it contains 20 drawings done by Keith during his service.

Keith *chose* to be a miner and was trained at Oakdale Colliery in Monmouthshire (now Gwent), he then worked alongside conscripted Bevin Boys. The reasons for Ernest Bevin's conscription scheme are dealt with briefly and then we are told about Keith's training in how to be a miner. After that the various aspects of the job are described in sections titled – The Descent, The Ride In, Shovelling, Boring, The Pneumatic Pick, The Haulier, The Collier, Measuring Day (surveying the mine), The Overman and The Canteen. All these give interesting insights into the various aspects of this physically demanding job.

The book finishes with a good four page history of Penallta Colliery and some photos of that site when it was in production. Incidentally some of the buildings from the colliery are now in use as part of an industrial estate; the central power house is still to be conserved or converted and the two headframes are still in place. But how long they will remain there, who knows?

Front Cover:



Some of the drawings:

