

Dai Bevan Mines His Own Deep Seams

by Tessa Nelson-Humphries

(Out of the 1984-5 miners' strike and almost total closing of the pits came the Community University of the Valleys in the Dulais Valley, Wales. Men and Women, from ages 25-70, flocked there for further education, working on five-year, part-time B.A. courses.)

Education's always been treasured in Wales.
 Ask Dai Bevan, who hungered for it,
 But had to go, poor and hungry, down pit.
 Now, mines closed but mind still open
 He reams his own deep seams.
 Under rusting winding-gear his lilt
 Soars among stacks of Tennyson and Clough,
 Secondhand Shakespeare and Gray.
 "Ah, bach* . . . just think . . . one day
 I'll be Dai Bevan, Welsh B.A!"

Coal-scarred hands push pen, exploring his ideas.
 Welsh insights mined from Dai's new ore.
 Down in the valleys the *gwerin*** say "Aye, one day,
 Our brave Dai Bevan, Welsh B.A.!"

*Little one, pal, friend

**The people