



André de Bouter (FR), 41 years old *course facilitator and trainer* **The energy changes**

André de Bouter's most valuable gain from his attendance of the courses at FAL e.V. was „to be able see things through the eyes of others.“ The 41 year old came to learn didactic methods, in other words to find out more about teaching, and to exchange experiences. Born in Holland, he wishes to establish a school for strawbale building in France where he now lives, and to issue diplomas and certificates himself. He has had a wide range of experience with this type of construction. For six years now, he has earned his keep with courses on strawbale building, which also integrate working with clay and „Clay and Art“. „Something special happens when you come into contact with the material, the energy changes.“ He wishes to turn this fascination into his career. First of all he will help others to discover nature, to then become more in harmony with themselves. During this process, he wishes to acquire a deeper understanding of clay as a building material himself. For this purpose he uses any meetings and assemblies of other interested parties, visits workshops, further courses and works with children. André de Bouter can make himself understood in four languages, but thinks however

that „the mind thinks in terms of pictures, and these pictures can also be activated in other countries.“

André de Bouter writes and translates books, reads all types of specialist publications with which he comes into contact, communicates via the Internet as a member of the Global Strawbale Network, and thus participates in the knowledge of experienced people and takes part in international strawbale meetings. He describes himself as „without fixed occupation“, SMF (Sans Métier Fixe)*. He had his first experiences with clay in India, where he participated in a construction project with earth and cement additions. In 2000 he travelled with his wife 11,000 km through Europe, from one strawbale project to the next. He got to know more about ecological building in Indiana USA and in Mexico, at Builders Without Borders, at an „intercultural build“. This also included role playing, in order to experience cultural differences.

* A play on words in French: SDF = sans domicile fixe = without fixed abode = tramp