



Hywel Lewis (UK), 26 years old
dry walling specialist
**He is on his way as an ambassador
for building**

The place from which this 26 year old comes has a long tradition of house and wall building with natural stone and slate. In North Wales, a very harsh mountainous region, Hywel Lewis began as a child repairing stone walls on the farm. Today he works on and teaches strawbale construction, clay and lime plastering. His skill and comprehensive knowledge have made him one of the most sought-after specialists in dry-stone walling. This traditional technique is found throughout Great Britain and Ireland. Through his contact with amazonails, the Welshman has discovered that building with stone and strawbales can be complementary. He has attended various courses with the organisation and also passed a training course as ambassador there. Now he is travelling around as an ambassador for natural building, passing on his knowledge. „I get a great deal back from this, learn from it continually and profit from these many contacts.“ He is currently working on a Welsh construction site. A 200 year old house, formerly of stone and clay, is to be restored. Unfortunately, over the past century, little maintenance has been done, and that of poor quality. The rain has washed out the stone walls. Now wet is penetrating into the house. This breaks the heart of Hywel Lewis. „We must make good the cracks with clay mortar and protect it with lime, so that the building will survive for the next 100 years.“

The specialist in dry-stone walling will complete the various ECVET units in different European countries, in order to become familiar with the cultural dif-



ferences in earth building methods. He will complete units 1 and 2 at amazonails, he will be introduced to historical clay plaster techniques at LE GABION and will learn about fine quality coloured clay plasters at FAL e.V.. Next, the ambassador will go to Portugal, to help with the restoration of an old house and the new construction of a strawbale building, work with the local clay and research old formulations. „I consider my work as that of a sculptor, intuitive and creative. Incorporating a wealth of ideas into the construction process is what I really enjoy.“