**Position Paper for the C group General meeting at IATEFL Manchester.**

**Sunday 12 April. 18.45-19.45 in Cobden 3.**

The purpose of this paper is:

~ to present a progress report on what the C group has so far achieved. This is partly for the benefit of any non-members who may be present.

~ to discuss possible future initiatives.

~ to decide what kind of a group we want to be, and what kind of a structure we need.

**Progress report**

 **1. To date.**

The C group came about as a result of discussions between Chaz Pugliese and Alan Maley following IATEFL conference in 2013. After consultation with some potential members a Manifesto was agreed. (For details see - <http://thecreativitygroup.weebly.com> )

* Website set up, including Manifesto. (Set up by Chris Lima)
* IATEFL 2014 Inaugural meeting - ideas generation. (Organised by Jane Spiro)
* IATEFL 2014 Creativity for a Change -Symposium. (Alan Maley, Chris Lima, Brian Tomlinson, Chaz Pugliese, Hania Kryszewska).
* IATEFL 2014. BC on-line interviews with some key C group members.
* Consultative group set up: Chaz Pugliese, Jane Spiro, Chris Lima, Amos Paran, Luke Prodromou, Jill Hadfield, Charlie Hadfield, Adrian Underhill, Brian Tomlinson, Alan Maley
* Four linked articles ‘C is for Creativity’ hosted by Brian Tomlinson, by several members of the group in ETp Issues 92-94 2014.
* Special number of EJALELT (European Journal of Applied Linguistics and ELT) Vol. 3, No 2, 2014, (Guest editor Alan Maley, Editor in Chief, Andrzej Cirocki - 8 of the 10 contributors were C Group members)
* Associated events:

~ Innovations in ELT at Christchurch University, Canterbury. (Organised by Mark Almond, with 4 C Group presenters) 10 May 2014
~ Spontaneity conference. 27 Sept, Birmingham (Organised by Nick Bilborough, with 3 C Group presenters)
~ MATSDA conference Liverpool, 28-29 June  (Organised by Brian Tomlinson with 4 C group presenters)

**2. In hand.**

* British Council e-publication on Creativity in Language Teaching (Co-editors - Nik Peachey and Alan Maley, with 19 contributors, many of them C group members) due out in April 2015.
* Pre-conference day event: 101 Ways of Using a Poem. – Literature, Media and Cultural Studies SIG. IATEFL conference. Manchester. 10 April 2015. SIG Co-ordinator. Chris Lima.
* HLTmag Special issue April 2015. (Co-editors - Hania Kryszewska and Chaz Pugliese)
* Oxford joint seminar at Oxford Brookes University. 22-23 May 2015. (C Group and LMS SiG (Organised by Jane Spiro, Chris Lima and Amos Paran)
* Participation in MATSDA Conference 20-21 June, 2015. University of Limerick. (Organised by Freda Mishan). The publication of the proceedings will be looking for an **editor**. Please let us know if you would be interested: The editor(s) will need to recruit the contributions, give feedback on first drafts, standardise the final drafts and send the |manuscript to the publisher (Cambridge Scholars). They will be paid royalties by the publisher Anyone interested should **contact BrianTomlinson** (brianjohntomlinson@googlemail.com )
* JALT (Japan Association of Language Teachers) conference, November2015. Pilgrims generously funding fares for one C group Featured Speaker. JALT has kindly agreed to cover the rest (Jim Wright, Kevin Stein, Marc Helgesen, Jane Spiro)
* Regular C Group feature article to appear in HLT Mag from June 2015. (Chaz Pugliese and Hania Kryszewska) Proposals for articles to Chaz Pugliese. chaz@gmail.com
* Educational Journal of Living Theories. Special issue December 2015 Creative teaching, creative learning: what does it mean and why is it important? Edited by Jane Spiro Oxford Brookes University. **Proposals to Jane Spiro.** (jspiro@brookes.ac.uk )
* Standing invitation for C group members to contribute articles to *The Teacher Trainer* Journal. **Contact Tessa Woodward** tessanseth@kentpeople.com

**Possible Future Initiatives.**

How can members set up initiatives in their local context? What support can the C group membership offer them?

Which organisations might it be worth approaching as we gain in strength?  (eg BC, Trinity, EAQUALS, Cambridge exams, IATEFL, etc) And what forms of cooperation do we envisage?

How can we make the website more active, more useful, more informative?

How can we enhance the profile of the C Group?

(These are no more than a few possible ideas. Feel free to add in others.)

 **What kind of a group do we want to be? And what does this imply for the way we run the group?**

**What kind of a group?**

Here I am expressing my personal views, so not everything I say will find favour with everyone.

In my view, there are two major ways we can conceive of the group: A. as a largely passive, supine group of like-minded, well-intentioned people or B. as a vibrant group of people who actually want to do something to further their declared aims.

~ The A conception would offer like-minded people the chance to engage in largely cosmetic association: having one’s picture and CV on the website, and waiting for someone else to organise events or activities. This would enhance the feel-good factor but would not achieve the aims the group set itself at the outset.

~ The B conception would expect members to take an active role in both initiating activities and in supporting other people’s initiatives. This kind of ‘parallel distributed responsibility’ is, of course much more demanding in terms of time and effort, than the cosmetic, more leisurely, laid-back conception. Words are always cheaper than actions.

My personal view is that B is the only worthwhile objective. If members agree with me, then we need urgently to consider how we can make this a reality. I have therefore suggested a few ideas below.

**A possible future structure for the C Group: Roles and responsibilities.**

* The group would need some kind of Executive Group. I would suggest a 3-person group which would co-ordinate and monitor activities. Once set up, the current consultative group would be dissolved.
* If the Group is to continue to grow, both in size and in the scope of its activities, I think members are going to have to take responsibility for specific aspects of our activities, reporting to the Executive group. **We will need volunteers to take on these roles and responsibilities.**

The following is a first attempt at specifying roles and what they might entail:

**1. The website and information updates to the members.**

Chris Lima has been responsible for setting up and running the website so far. If she is willing to continue in this role, well and good. If not, we will need a website-manager

**2. On-line activities.**

Although the information on the website is clear and easily accessible, there has been very little in the way of active involvement of members via the website. Someone is needed, in cooperation with the website-manager, to activate the Facebook page, to organise interactive pages, web-links to other organisations, webinars, podcasts and the rest.

**3. Publications.**

So far we have been relatively successful in placing articles etc. from group members. (eg. ETp, HLTMag, BC Publication, EJALELT special number, etc.) But we need to continue to find outlets. This role would also include links with publishers, and possibly setting up C Group publications of our own.

**4. New memberships (UK and overseas.)**

We need to streamline the system for publicising the C Group and for enrolling new members. The present system needs to be made more user friendly.

5. **Events**,

Organising and coordinating events, (including joint events with other institutions and organisations), such as seminars, workshops etc. both in UK and overseas.

We have two events in the pipeline:

~ The Lit and Media Studies SIG and C group joint conference. Oxford. Now re-scheduled for 22-23 May 2015.

~ The MATSDA conference in Limerick. 20-21 June 2015, with which the C Group will be associated.

We need to seek other co-operative events, as well as to plan our own.

6 **Liaison with other organisations and general publicity**.

 (eg. IATEFL, British Council, NILE, Pilgrims, Bell, etc.) Keeping in touch with other professional groups is key to our strategy of influencing decisions, wherever possible.

**7 Co-ordinator for the C Group presence at IATEFL Conferences.**

The IATEFL annual conference is a major opportunity for the C group to get its message out, to liaise with other institutions, to enrol new members, and coordinate its own activities with members. This is an important role.

**8 Editor for the regular C Group slot on hltmag**

This is due to start after the special issue next year. Chaz Pugliese has volunteered for this role. It will clearly entail close liaison with Hania Kryszewska at HLT Mag, and a pro-active trawling for suitable articles to fill the slot in every issue.

**9 Finance and legal.**

So far, we have been able to exist without any formal legal structure and without any funding. Eventually, I think we will need to find a legal status (Charity? SIG?) for the C group, and find sources of funding for its activities. (Amos Paran has been most helpful in costing the Oxford event and has the necessary experience.)

**How can you, personally, contribute to the success of the group?**
1. Consider whether you would be able to organise an event promoting the ideas of the group in your locality (in your institution, your town, province, country, etc.)

2. If possible, participate in the events listed above.

3. Consider contributing to the regular C group feature in HLTMag. (see above). Contact Hania Kryszewska and Chaz Pugliese with your ideas.

4. Check on the website regularly, so that you can update yourself on new members and new information. And if you have not yet sent your own information – please do so. We need a recent photo and a brief bio-statement (about 150-200 words) Please send these to Chris Lima (chrislima90@yahoo.co.uk ) And if you have ideas for developing the website, please send to Chris also.

5. Extending the membership. We started small, and we are still quite small. We expect to gradually expand membership, especially to colleagues outside UK. The C Group is meant to be inclusive, not elitist. But we also want to be reasonably sure that new members are likely to make a contribution. There is no point in having large numbers of mainly passive members. So, if you have suggestions for new members likely to play an active role, please send them to yelamoo@yahoo.co.uk

6. Whenever possible, mention the C Group, and if you are giving a PPT presentation, make sure to include a reference to the C group website.

7. Consider whether you would be willing to take on any of the roles listed above. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me on yelamoo@yahoo.co.uk