

# Creating Conversations that Change Things



## **An essential workshop for meeting the exceptional challenges of right now**

*(This workshop can be run either for organisations in house or on an open public basis)*

This highly experiential one day format introduces participants to the art and science of holding really good conversations and stimulating positive change. Now more than ever, we need to develop our capacity to bring diverse people together to really deal with the things that matters most.

Led by Chris Chapman, an experienced facilitator and conference host, the workshop introduces the methodologies and skills of Appreciative Inquiry, World Café and Open Space Technology. It explores how such methods can help us transform ourselves and up our game in times of uncertainty and potential chaos.

The workshop is supported with substantial additional resources and access to on-line materials and can be adapted to meet the priority needs of each set of participants. *(Please call for further details)*



*"There is nothing in a caterpillar that tells you it's going to be a butterfly"*

**Chris Chapman**

Consultant in Conversational Leadership and Innovation

[www.changeexploratory.ie](http://www.changeexploratory.ie)

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# What would it take for you to convene game-changing conversations?



We all know what it is like to have a really good conversation; to be challenged by new perspectives, to be excited by our own creativity and that of others, to feel alive and to be actually dealing with the things that matter most. Yet, we all spend so much time in conversations that confuse and de-motivate us and go nowhere.

This need not be the case, there is an art and a science to the holding of really good conversations and there are learnable skills and techniques, which can help you and your organisation to deal with the issues that matter most. This workshop will enable you to energise your approach to transformative change and ignite networks of passionate and responsible action.

Every individual, every organisation, every system is different and there is no single recipe on the shelf that will meet everyone's needs. What we are all facing is the need to be able to work effectively amidst uncertainty and to increase our resilience so that we can cope better with a variety of possible future scenarios. How we are in ourselves, how we work as groups and how we build durable relationships with diverse stakeholders will be the critical determinants of our success. It's time to learn from the best of international practices

*Imagine the difference  
dramatically improved conversations  
could make  
to your organisation, NOW.*

**Chris Chapman**

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**Chris Chapman** is a leading figure in the development and practice of 'conversational leadership' in Ireland.

He is working with Change Leaders to design and host transformative events and processes and also trains and mentors other practitioners in the undertaking of such work.

Chris has driven work on leadership with Cultivate, Living and Learning Centre in Dublin; designing and facilitating events that help people to see beyond immediate problems and to have a focus on the longer-term challenges of sustainability and resilience. This includes a consideration of the kinds of system change that will be necessary for individuals, communities and businesses to flourish in an uncertain future.



Further afield, Chris has worked internationally with some of the world's foremost figures in leadership development and was a host for the first European Event run by 'Authentic Leadership in Action' ([www.aliainstitute.org](http://www.aliainstitute.org)) – an organisation recently confirmed by the Washington Post as the world's leading leadership development event organisers.

Chris's background is in Community Development and Person-Centred Care Services. He is a qualified life coach and has a Masters in Change Agent Skills and Strategies.

## What people have said about working with Chris

"For me, what makes working with Chris different is that he is so comfortable with chaos and brings a calming influence on the proceedings. His understanding of processes for change and techniques for transformation have been essential to the development of our 'Training for Leadership, Livelihoods and Local Resilience' learning programme."

**Davie Philips : Education Manager : Cultivate Living & Learning Centre**

"Participating in a World Cafe with Chris helped me to see how this kind of facilitation could bring together diverse people and diverse perspectives into a meaningful whole. What I valued most was his flexibility to respond and adapt to what was coming from the group; Chris had a non-threatening way of enabling everyone to get into the same space that has made a tremendous difference to us"

**Ava Battles : Chief Executive Officer, Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups**

"This style of facilitation really gives people a chance to open up and tease topics out fully in a positive way that avoids confrontation, yet does not avoid the elephants in the room."

**Ann Heelan : Executive Director, AHEAD, Association for Higher Education Access & Disability**

# People Interested In Changing Things may also like...



## **Purposeful Play**

... provides consultancy workshops and coaching in creative development to energise thinking and fresh ideas for personal and organisation change. We offer a range of different approaches and approaches from a variety of disciplines such as dialogue, embodied leadership, appreciative inquiry, improvisation and clown. Carol Magnus and Susan Coughlan are organisation development consultants with over 50 combined years experience in the not for profit sectors in Ireland and England. Purposeful Play is about finding new ways of working in turbulent times.

For further details contact Susan Coughlan – [purposefulplayinfo@gmail.com](mailto:purposefulplayinfo@gmail.com)

## **Action Learning Ireland**

We all reach a point where we realise that traditional approaches to training and learning tend to fail: not sufficiently embedding learning and focussing more on theory than real life practice.

Action Learning Ireland has been set up to promote and develop the best of Action Learning practices, enabling organisations to develop applied approaches to peer support, learning and leadership development that will grow the flexibility and adaptability needed for today's context.

To take learning to a different level visit [www.actionlearningireland.com](http://www.actionlearningireland.com)

## **Cloughjordan Ecovillage - For latest developments visit, [www.thevillage.ie](http://www.thevillage.ie)**

As well as a place for people to live sustainably, the eco-village at Cloughjordan is developing as a place for visiting and learning. A 32 bed eco-hostel is close to completion. This will offer affordable quality accommodation and a residential learning centre in an eco-village environment and promote the eco-village philosophy of community, sustainability and ecological / environmental awareness. Increasingly, the eco-village will become a hub for learning for change-makers.

For details of courses and to discuss the possibility of a transformative strategic retreat to help grow resilience for your organisation contact Davie Philips – email [davie@cultivate.ie](mailto:davie@cultivate.ie)

## **Authentic Leadership in Action (ALIA) – REIMAGINE, RECREATE, RENEW**

Confirmed by the Washington Post as the world's leading organisers of leadership development events, ALIA have now confirmed the details of their next European event to take place in the Netherlands in March 2011.

For details see : <http://www.aliainstitute.org/programs/2011europe/index.html>

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